# ‘Milenyo’ kills 13; MMDA washes hands of floods

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

INSULTO NAMAN 'TO!

## Invitation to an execution

**By Juliet Javellana**

AN earnest mistake, or a stab at deadly humor?

The Bureau of Corrections last week invited one of the

ANTI-DEATH/A4

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### WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Taulava, Menk head RP 5** SPORTS / A21
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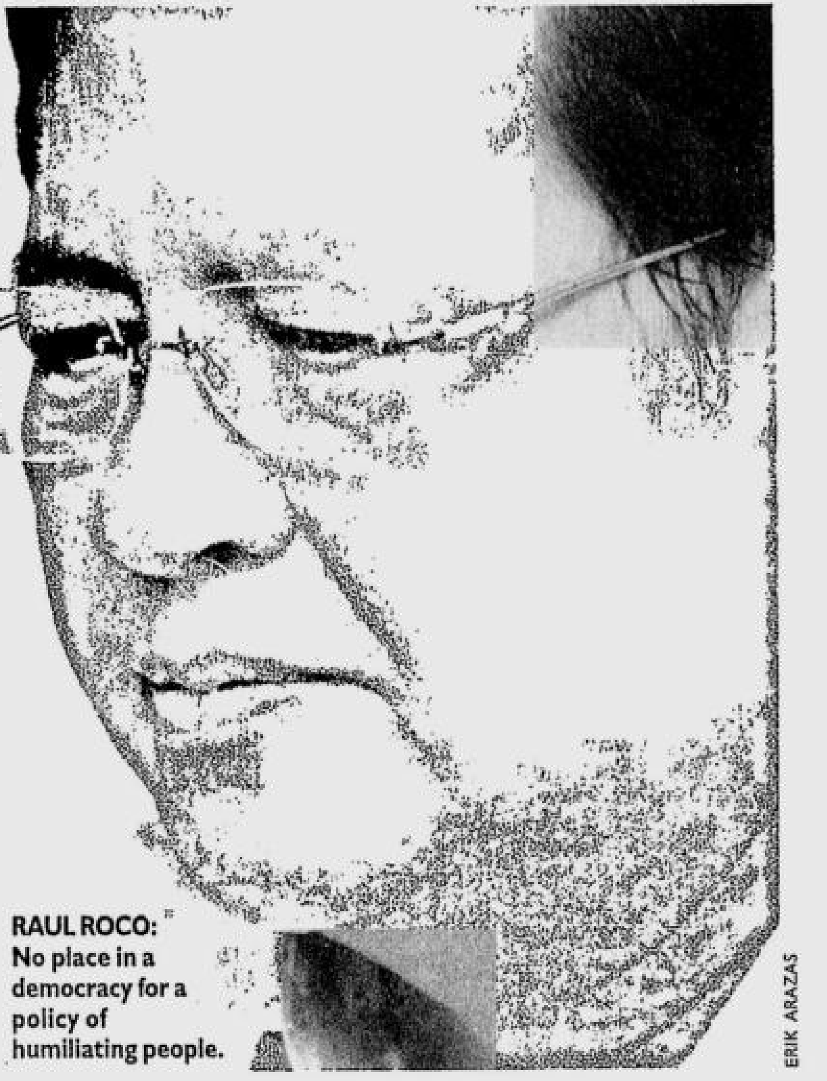
- **'I'm sorry I married Alma'** METRO / A25

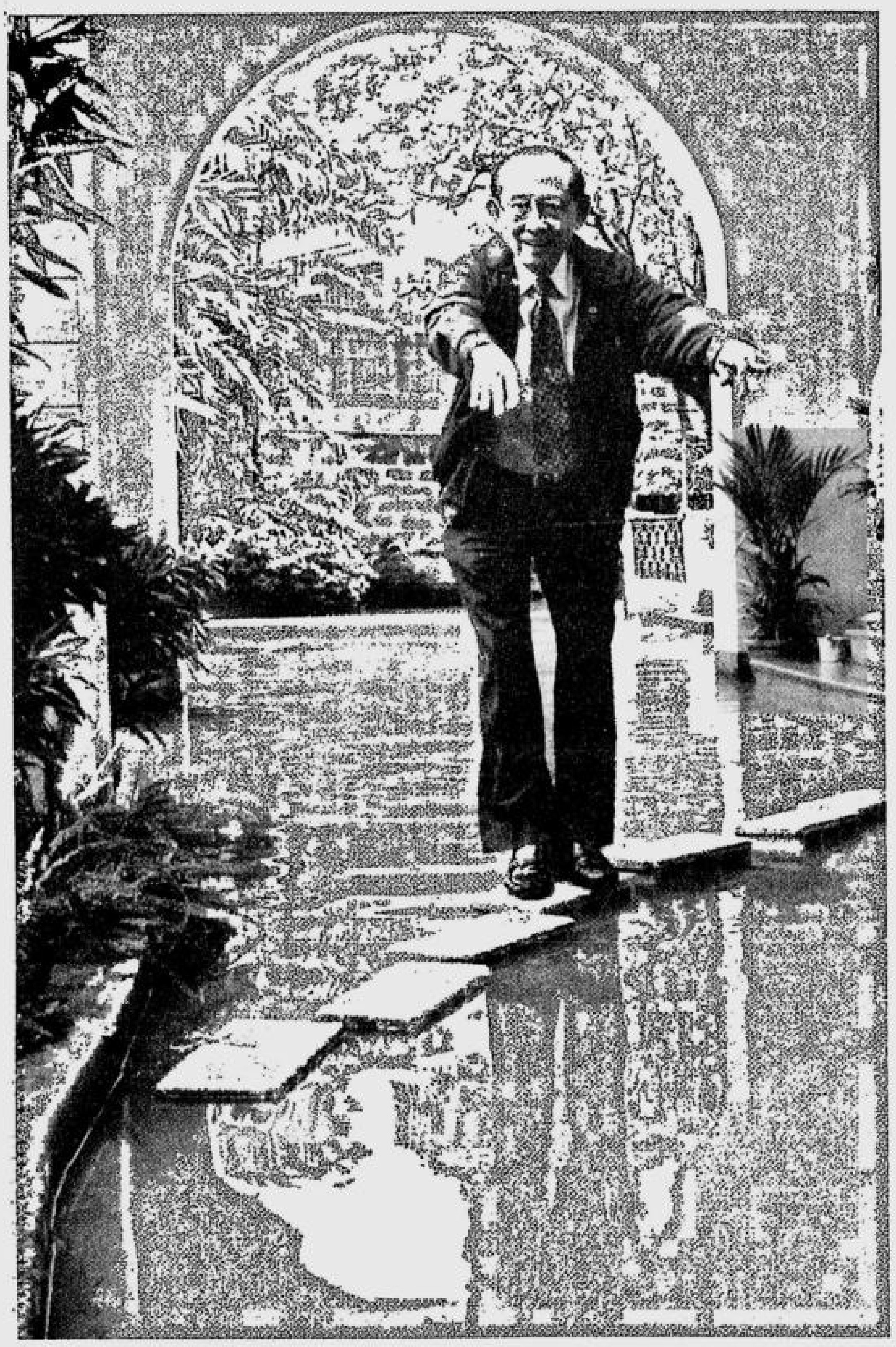
e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, August 14, 2002 ★ 60 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 247 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# Disgusted, Roco quits Cabinet



**RAUL ROCO:** No place in a democracy for a policy of humiliating people.

ERIK ARAZAS



**GREAT LEVELER: Floodwaters do not spare the country's former President, Fidel V. Ramos, who does a mean balancing act to get across to dry land from a restaurant where he held a press conference.**

EDWIN BACASMAS

## *President will ask him to reconsider resignation*

**By Donna S. Cueto and Dona Pazzibugan**

**IT MAY not have been a coincidence after all.**

**On the day a survey found Education Secretary Raul S. Roco the man to beat if presidential elections were held now, President Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed a complaint against Roco to the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (PCAGC).**

The President's move did not sit well with Roco, who with a heavy heart and a parting shot at the President's "policy" of "humiliating people," resigned as education secretary yesterday.

He announced his resignation in a hastily called press conference at the Manila Hotel at 11 a.m. as heavy rains poured over Metro Manila, surprising most of the country.

Roco said he was surprised and disappointed with the way things were handled by the President, and with how PCAGC Chair Dario Rama acted with "discourtesy" announcing over radio and television that he was going to investigate Roco without informing him about it first.

His resignation letter to the President had a tinge of bitterness.

"It would have been so simple for your excellency or the Executive Secretary to ask me to explain as member of your official family," Roco said in his resignation letter submitted to the President yesterday morning.

"Such courtesy was not extended. I take it as an expression of loss of confidence. As a point of honor then, I am constrained to resign from your Cabinet," he said in the letter.

DISGUSTED/A18

## 'A casualty of his own popularity'

**By Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia Balana and Juliet L. Javellana**

BECAUSE Raul S. Roco is a "powerful alternative" in the 2004 presidential elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately take steps to contain the damage caused by his resignation as education secretary.

The unsolicited advice came from former President Fidel V. Ramos, who was apparently referring to a survey that found Roco as the man to beat in the 2004 presidential election if the election were held now.

The former President and

A CASUALTY/A18

## Akbayan, Sanlakas: We're no commies

**By Christine Avendaño and Gerald G. Lacuarta**

TWO MILITANT groups President Macapagal-Arroyo identified as communist organizations that don't espouse armed struggle said yesterday that they were not commies.

"There are no communists within Akbayan," Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said.

Sanlakas is neither a communist organization nor a terrorist front, according to its president Wilson Fortaleza.

"The inclusion of Sanlakas and other legal organizations in the list of `communist organizations' showed how her (Ms Macapagal's) administration is

AKBAYAN/A4

## Gambling values real termites, says bishop

**By Armand N. Nocum, Cynthia Balana and Christine Avendaño**

GAMBLING values are the "real termites" eating away at the foundation of the President's so-called strong republic, a leading Catholic bishop charged yesterday.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "stay true to her mandate" and stop the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s plan to add thousands of slot machines in the country.

The plan to spread gambling, he said, is rooted in "avarice and greed" and the values of hard work and honesty are "set aside in favor of pleasure and the chance to earn money the easy way."

"These are not the values that make a strong republic. These are the real termites that precisely eat away the foundations of our society and culture and the moral fiber of our youth," the influential archbishop of Lingayen said.

In the Senate, solons crossed party lines to express opposition to the Pagcor expansion program involving some 2,000 new slot machines in some 11 slot machine arcades outside the state-run casinos.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste said the government went "overboard" by putting slot machines in public areas.

"Definitely, I'm not in favor and I'm glad that it was not

GAMBLING/A19

## 'Milenyo' kills 13; MMDA washes hands of floods

AT LEAST 13 people died and thousands fled their homes as tropical depression "Milenyo" spawned neck-deep floods, whipped up waterspouts, and triggered mudslides in Luzon and Visayas.

But even before the storm could make its exit, the fingerpointing has begun. Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, said there was nothing much the MMDA could have done about the floods.

Fernando, who was recently given the responsibility of solving Metro Manila's perennial flood problem, said the Department of Public Works and Highways had not yet

'MILENYO'/A18

**HERE comes that rainy day again. Through a windshield darkly, intimations of movements of people, of vehicles, of water and impressions of colors and shadows.**

DENNIS SABANGAN

## Yes to slot machines; no to 'jueteng'

**By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendano**

WHAT gambling republic?

Malacañang yesterday took exception to opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara's claim that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s plan to increase the number of slot machine arcades in the country was creating a "gambling republic."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Pagcor was well within its rights when it launched its expansion program, even as President Macapagal remained opposed to all forms of illegal gambling.

"The President is very much against illegal gambling like jueteng and masiao," Bunye said, pointing out that seven police generals were ordered relieved last month for failing to curb the illegal numbers game jueteng.

He also pointed out that Pagcor's slot machine operation was allowed under its congressional franchise.

YES/A20

## Second FRONT PAGE

BASTA LABAN SA TERRORISM

# RP, US to open new line for talks

**By Jennie L. Ilustre**
*PDI Washington Correspondent*

**WASHINGTON—The Philippines and the United States have agreed to maintain "an open channel of strategic talks" among their top civilian officials for the purpose of creating a "policy environment for a more robust bilateral defense relationship" to fight terrorism and promote security and stability in the Southeast Asian region.**

A forum, to be called the Defense Policy Board, would be formed to promote the strategic dialogue, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said at the end of his meeting here on Monday with US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

A spokesman for the Pentagon, the US defense department, said Rumsfeld told Reyes the two countries needed "an agreement that will allow flexibility" in determining what strategic issues to discuss, when such talks will take place, and the level of the senior officials who would conduct the talks.

For a long time, the Philippines and the US have had in place several dialogue venues "for uniformed military officers, but no forum for senior defense officials who are civilians," the Pentagon's Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis said.

Davis said the forum would be similar to the US-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue started in April. He said the strategic dialogue helped the Indonesian government "with its civilian oversight of the military."

Reyes said the details, such as the composition of the board, would be discussed during further consultations between the two governments.

Reyes said he and Rumsfeld discussed the next Balikatan joint military exercises to begin in October and the "second quarter of next year," adding that the focus would be on military training in Luzon.

He said he did not take up with Rumsfeld the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA). He stuck to the official line that the agreement was a mere accounting of logistics support from the US.

Reyes left for the US on Saturday amid debates on the presence of US troops in the country.

Militant groups believe Reyes was out to sabotage the ongoing peace talks between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front.

A statement from Reyes' Manila office said the US had agreed to support efforts to build up a stronger Philippine military, saying that it would be a "positive" factor in the Southeast Asian region.

The Americans are also thinking of going into partnership to develop defense industries to help the Philippine military develop and sustain its military equipment, the statement said.

MR. REYES goes to Washington and meets with Mr. Rumsfeld.
AP PHOTO

A member of the Philippine delegation said Rumsfeld appeared pleased that the Filipinos did not come to the meeting hat in hand, with a "wish list" of equipment needed to modernize the Armed Forces.

"We did not bring up a wish list, we are confident that the equipment will come," he said.

Davis said Rumsfeld thanked Reyes for the Philippines' cooperation in the global war on terrorism.

He said the US military presence in Mindanao would be reduced in the coming months to a small liaison group that would prepare for a second phase of counter-terrorism training for the Philippine military. ***With a report from Martin A. Marfil and AFP***

# GMA hikes budget to ₱804B

**By Dona Pazzibugan**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday approved a P3.3 billion increase in the proposed 2003 national budget, from P800.7 billion to P804 billion.

The new budget proposal is P23.2 billion more than this year's budget, which is P780.8 billion.

With the increase, the government also raised its budget deficit target for 2003, from P138 billion to P142.1 billion, or 3.3 percent of the gross domestic product.

For next year, the government has forecast total revenues of P640.7 billion. These are broken down into: P465.6 billion from the Bureau of Internal Revenue; P106.8 billion from the Bureau of Customs; P7.6 billion from other agencies, and P60.7 billion from non-tax sources.

This year's deficit target still stands at P130 billion.

The President approved the budget increase during the Cabinet meeting yesterday. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said most of the additional P3.3 billion would go to the hiring of more teachers and policemen, and for "socio-economic projects."

In last week's Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting, Ms Macapagal had said she was inclined to increase the P800.7-billion original budget proposal. Ledac, a joint executive and legislative body convened every now and then by Malacañang, had prepared the proposal. ***With Clarissa Batino and a report from AFP***

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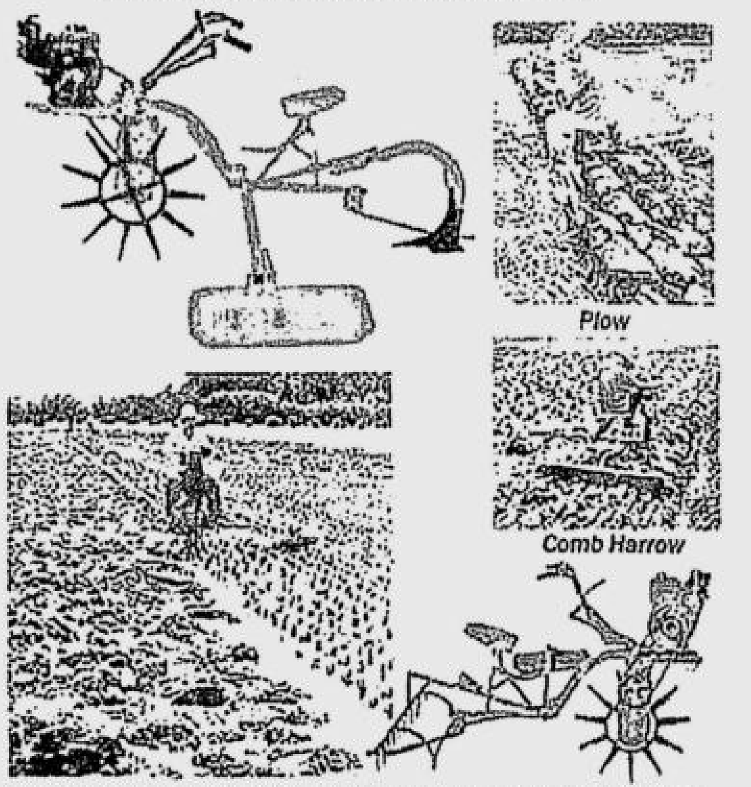

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# Top companies, groups relaunch Children's Hour

By Celine R. Madamba

EVERY hour dedicated to making a difference in the life of a Filipino child is time well spent.

After a successful campaign in 1999, the Children's Hour steering committee and the Ayala Foundation are once again appealing to every working individual and company to donate at least an hour's worth of earnings for the benefit of the country's abused and disadvantaged children.

With a new motto and the backing of distinguished and dynamic leaders, the campaign is being institutionalized this year as an annual fund-raiser.

The renewed drive kicks off 3 p.m. today at the Glorietta Activity Center, with a party for some 100 children from beneficiary organizations, followed by the opening of a photo exhibit, and a formal program with honorary chair Corazon Aquino as special guest. Highlight of the program will be a special pledging ceremony involving more than 10 major companies, individuals and organizations. Young entertainers Cris Villonco, Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin will attend the event.

## Steering committee

This year's steering committee is chaired by Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II. Vice chair is ABS-CBN Foundation's managing director Gina L. Lopez. Committee members are business and government leaders Emily Abrera, Corazon Alma de Leon, Ramon R. del Rosario, Renato S. de Villa, Carols Dominguez, Susana A.S. Madrigal, Narcisa L. Escaler, Bob D. Gothong, Patricia B. Licuanan, Guillermo M. Luz, Justo A. Ortiz, Marianne G. Quebral, Pedro E. Roxas, Bienvenido A. Tan Jr., Bishop Socrates Villegas and Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez.

Since its launch, Children's Hour in the Philippines has been hailed by the International Youth Foundation, its global advocate, as one of the most successful campaigns in the world—besting 23 countries in terms of donations and variety of marketing programs initiated. Numerous individuals, government officials and about 400 corporations in the Philippines supported the campaign.

## Beneficiaries

In less than six months, Children's Hour raised close to P40 million and benefited more than 88,000 children throughout the country by supporting organizations that addressed their health, educational and rehabilitation needs. The campaign's beneficiary groups include Bantay Bata, Tabang Mindanaw, International Deaf Education Association, Kamalayan Development Foundation, Bulig Foundation, Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education and the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Project.

Children's Hour, with the help of its cooperating partner, the Elena P. Tan Foundation, also raised enough funds to donate medical equipment to the pediatric wards of 10 medical centers and three health centers. At last count, 31,156 patients have been served by these equipment.

According to Ayala Foundation president Vicky Garchitorena, "The support we received in 1999 raised a great deal of awareness about children's issues in the Philippines. We are harnessing this increased awareness in relaunching Children's Hour. We are confident that there is a wellspring of generosity out there that we can tap to help our children."

# Abu leader nabbed in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military announced yesterday it had arrested a suspected Abu Sayyaf leader who went into hiding here after operations against the terror group intensified a couple of months ago.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina identified the suspect as Mohaimin Mustafa, also known as Abu Katada, Abu Amin and Abu Mohaimin, who was captured in Barangay Talon-talon here on Sunday morning.

Mustafa was listed in the military's order of battle and carried a bounty of P150,000, Carolina said.

Carolina said that on questioning, Mustafa, a native of Barangay Vitali here, admitted working under Isnilon Hapilon, one of the top five Abu Sayyaf leaders with $1 million prizes on their heads.

At the same time, Carolina said the kidnap gang holding three Indonesians hostage in Sulu was demanding P500,000 as "board and lodging fee."

He said the kidnappers, led by a Mahalik Malud-nin, relayed their demand to the relatives of the hostages—Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Jul Kipli and Pieter Lerrich.

In Maguindanao, two persons were wounded when unidentified men lobbed a grenade at the WG&A ticketing office in Sultan Kudarat at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

Police identified the victims as Kasan Mantong, 30, and Dodong Enorio, 27, both of Barangay Salimbao, Sultan Kudarat.

Jun Quiñones, a customer, told investigators that before the explosion, an unidentified man had called up the WG&A office asking for the phone number of an employee.

When the worker who received the call declined to give it, the caller was said to have warned, "*Pag di niyo binigay may sasabog* (If you don't give it, there will be an explosion) in three minutes." ***Edwin O. Fernandez and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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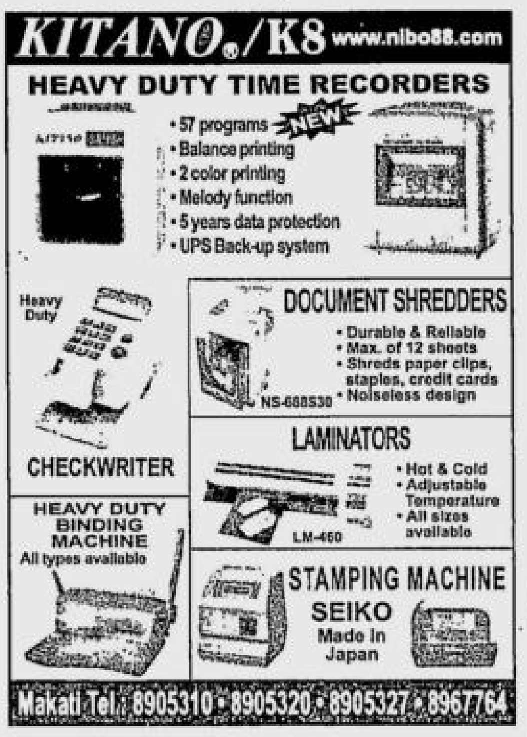
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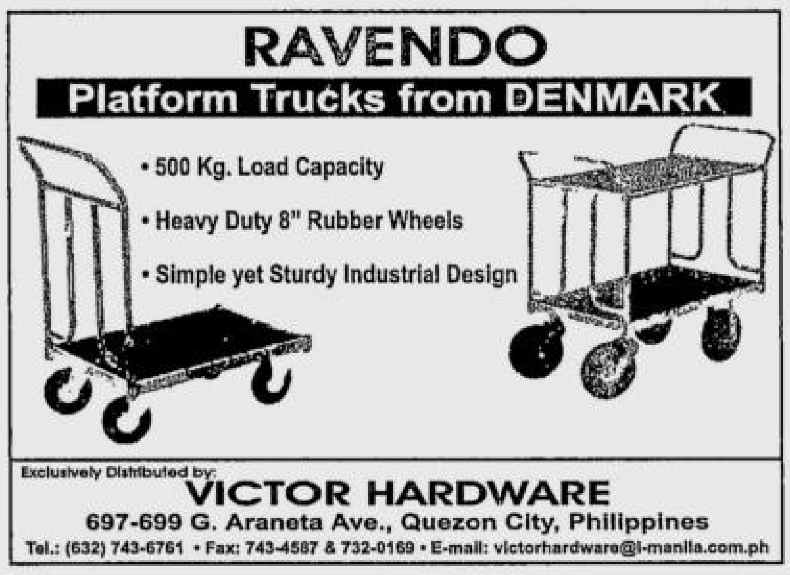
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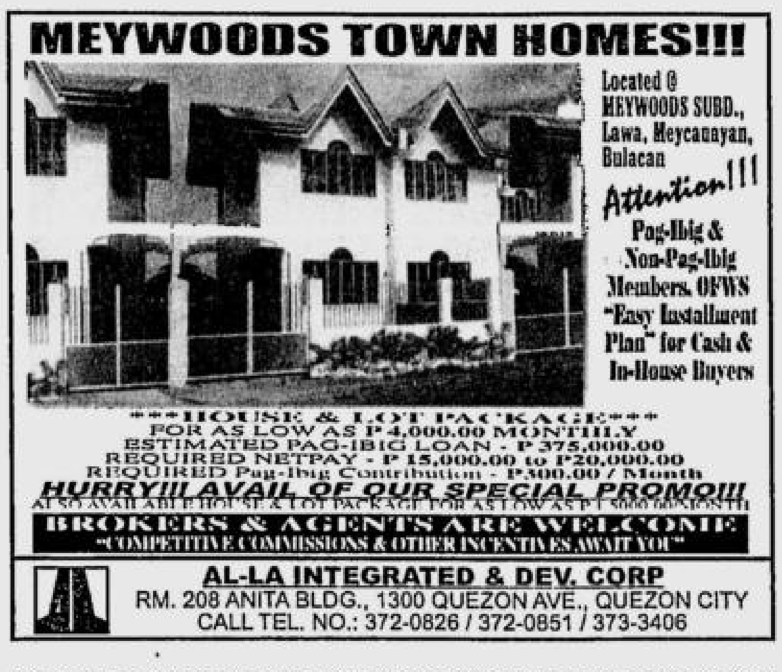
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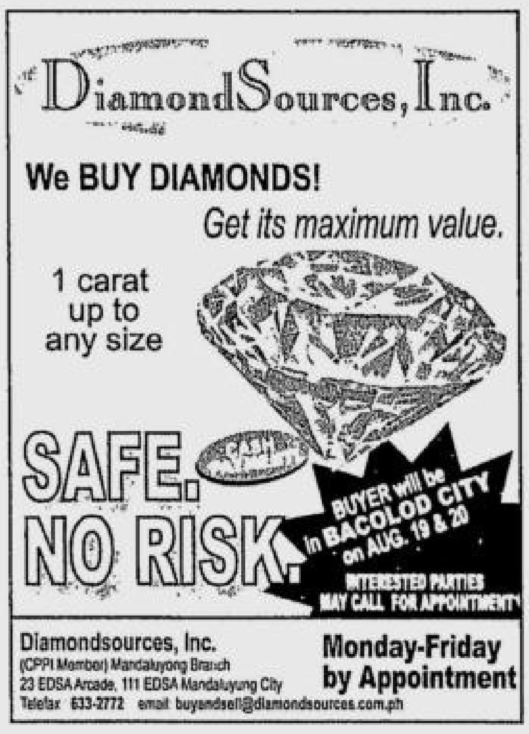
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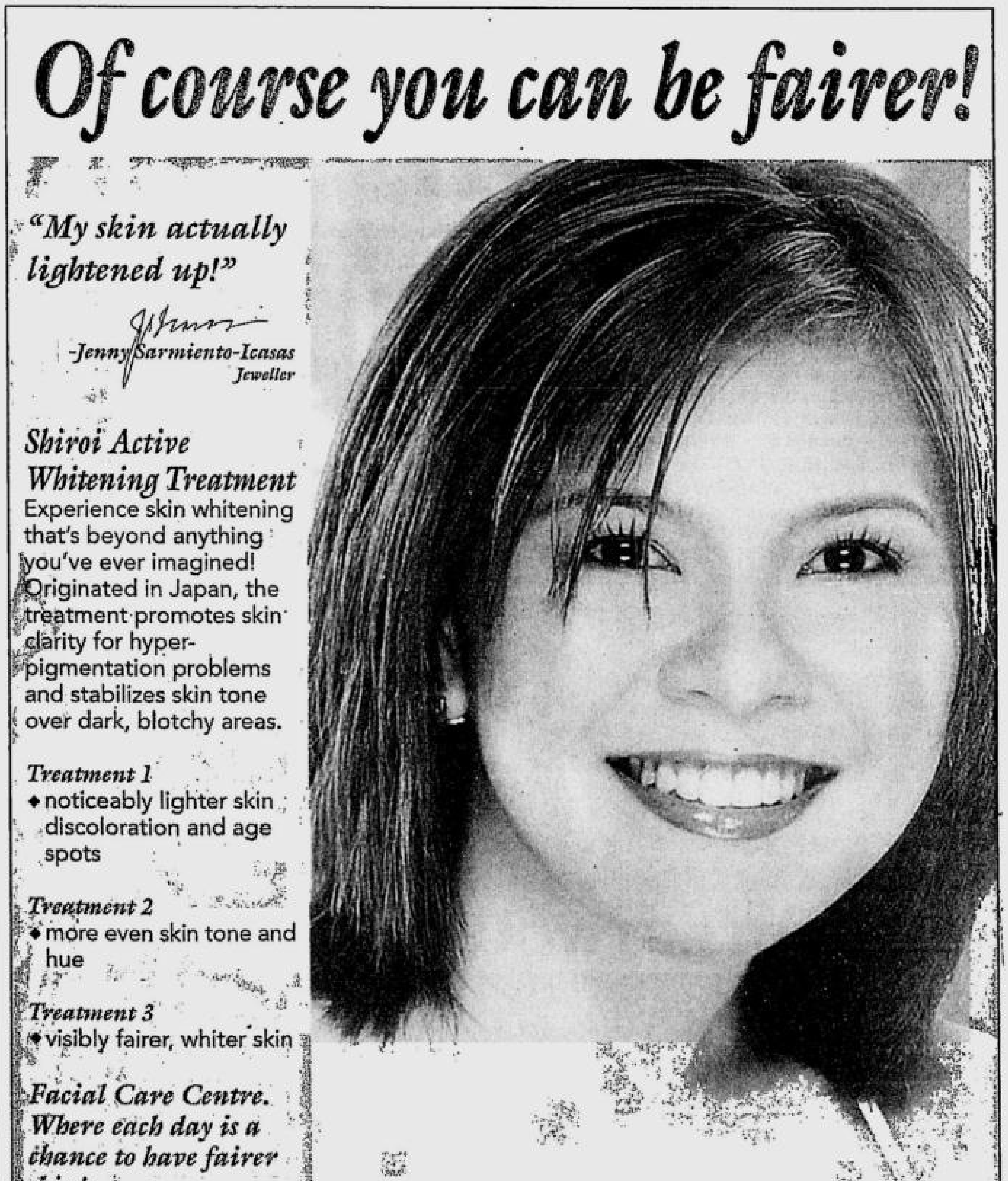
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# Anti-death solon gets invitation to an execution

From page A1

country's staunchest anti-death penalty advocates to witness the execution of a death convict. But Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales, chair of the House human rights committee, did not find the invitation amusing.

Rosales yesterday said she had not received a bigger insult than the one she got from retired Col. Ricardo Macala, bureau director.

On Aug. 7, Ricardo sent a "confidential" letter to Rosales as chair of the committee on human rights asking her to witness the execution of Rolando Pagdayawon at 3 p.m. on Aug. 30. Not to put too fine on it, Macala also asked Rosales to respond to his invitation as fast as possible.

"I was aghast and sorely offended by the invitation that goes against the sensibility of what we're fighting for," Rosales said at a press briefing held jointly by the human rights and revision of laws committees and the Free Legal Assistance Group.

The two committees had jointly approved House Bill No. 5114 seeking the abolition of Republic Act No. 7659, the death penalty law.

"I certainly do not want to be a part of this government policy which violates human rights," Rosales said in rejecting Macala's invitation.

Ma. Socorro Diokno, FLAG secretary general, said Pagdayawon was a rape convict from Mindanao.

## Report

Rosales and Rep. Orlando Fua, chair of the revision of laws panel, were among those who signed committee report No. 700 which would be submitted to the plenary for approval.

Diokno, whose group opposes the death penalty and handles cases of death row inmates, said there were 97 members of the House who have signified support for the bill's approval.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said this was a record-breaking bill because it was the first time such a controversial measure hurdled the committee level.

Padilla said other controversial bills usually "sleep the slumber of the dead."

Diokno said the committees' approval was a "very big step" in the campaign against capital punishment.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said his group was strongly for abolition of the capital punishment because its victims were mostly poor. He said many of the death convicts were victims of the flawed justice system and of poverty which often lead them to commit heinous acts.

Representatives Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna), Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur), Del de Guzman (Marikina), Nereus Acosta (Caloocan), Ted Failon (Leyte), Jose Solis (Sorsogon) also attended the press briefing.

## No deterrent

Albay Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro said pro-death advocates had failed to prove that capital punishment was a deterrent to crime.

"Contrary to the expectations of death penalty advocates, there was an upsurge of kidnapping, rape and drug trafficking cases after the restoration of the death penalty in 1994," Luistro said. She said the execution of Leo Echegaray did not even affect the high incidence of rape cases.

Dr. Bernadette Madrid of the Philippine General Hospital child protection unit said capital punishment "does not work."

She said that since the PGH child protection unit was set up in 1997, it had handled 3,000 abused children, 71 percent of whom were sexually abused.

Dolly Pangilinan, wife of death convict Arthur, made a tearful appeal to the House members.

She said the approval of the abolition bill was a big ray of hope for her and other members of the Samahan ng mga Pamilya sa Death Row.

"We found hope that we can still see our spouses. We are not saying they should not be punished, but they should not be killed," Pangilinan said in Filipino.

She said families of death convicts felt like they were also going to be executed every day.

Diokno said that the Supreme Court, in its mandatory review of death convictions, found that seven out of every 10 convictions were procedurally flawed.

"That is a very high error rate," she said, adding that the high court either overturned the death sentence or commuted it to life or lesser imprisonment.

# Akbayan, Sanlakas: We're no commies,

From page A1

reckless in dealing with politically sensitive things," Fortaleza said.

Ms Macapagal said on Monday that Sanlakas could be "irritating" but "it doesn't have an armed component."

She also named the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas and the revolutionary Proletarian Army as communist groups that don't take up arms against the government.

The President identified these groups when he said that it was OK to be a communist as long as one did not seek to overthrow the government through violent means.

Rosales said Ms Macapagal had "grossly misread what Akbayan is all about."

"I regret that she didn't ask us first before calling us a communist group," Rosales said.

Rosales said there was nothing wrong in calling anyone a communist because communism was no longer against the law in the country.

But she maintained that Akbayan was a "pluralist organization" and "a coalition of different political persuasions."

Founded in 1998, the group is made up of former national democrats, former and current social democrats, socialists and independents who are mostly nationalists and human rights activists, according to Rosales.

"The orthodox or the faction of Jose Ma. Sison or the splinter group from Sison's faction, does not influence Akbayan in any way," she said.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), which the President had earlier tagged as a communist group, said Ms Macapagal may not even realize it, but her propensity to brand critics, particularly militant leaders, as "communists" could mean death or torture to many people.

## Alarmed

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño became more alarmed when the President excluded his group—the country's biggest network of militant people's organizations—in her own list of "communist organizations" not engaged in armed struggle.

By excluding Bayan and its party-list group Bayan Muna, the President implied that the two groups were engaged in armed struggle, according to Casiño.

"Is President Macapagal now treating Bayan and Bayan Muna the same way it does the CPP-NPA-NDF or the Abu Sayyaf? That we would certainly like to know," he said.

Casiño said while Bayan did not care about not being in the President's "friendly" communists, "the problem is that her statements are being taken by the AFP and PNP as a license to kill and harass our leaders, making them targets of her government's brutal anti-insurgency, now anti-terrorist campaign."

Casiño said in the past year, 39 Bayan and Bayan Muna leaders were killed by suspected soldiers, police and para-military groups. Before their deaths, all 39 had been tagged as NPA sympathizers either by the AFP or PNP.

"This is no trivial thing. Ms Macapagal's announcement about who and who is not a communist or terrorist can mean death or torture for many people. As it is, her recent statements are death warrants for many of our leaders," Casiño stressed.

Casiño wondered why Ms Macapagal did not brand Bayan and Bayan Muna as communists during the People Power II, which catapulted her to power. Bayan, which was formed in 1985 at the height of the anti-Marcos dictatoship struggle, was instrumental in organizing the oust-Estrada campaign that brought Ms Macapagal into power.

"*Napakabilis makalimot ni Gloria.* Back then, she was very friendly with us and did not accuse us of being communists or what. Now that we are criticizing her for her anti-people policies, she forgets who we are and what we stand for. She's starting to think like Marcos," Casiño said.

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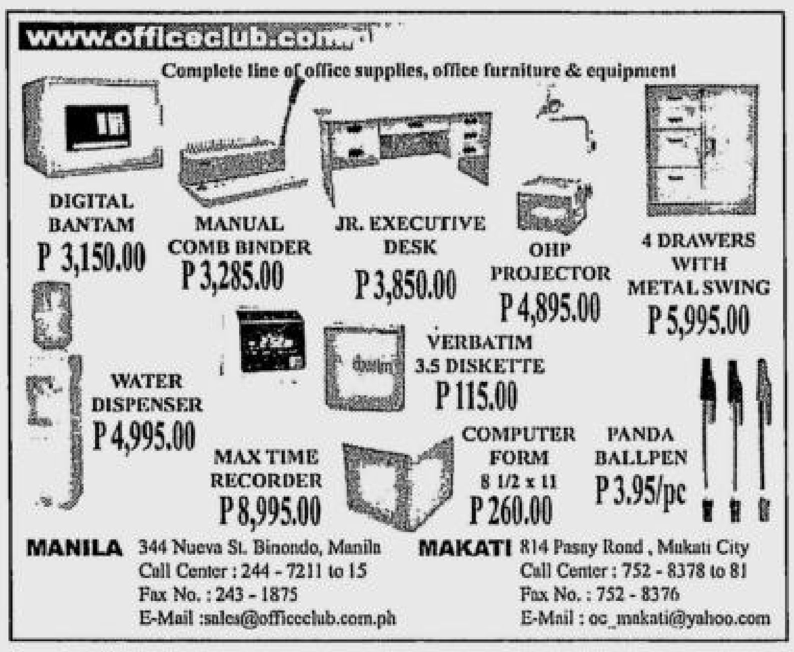
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# No surprise–most Pinoys want Yanks here

A SOLID majority of Filipinos want the joint military exercises with the United States to continue because of perceived benefits from the transfer of military technology and the elimination of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, according to a Pulse Asia survey.

The six-month US military training exercise ended on July 31 on Basilan island, a known Abu Sayyaf stronghold. A second phase of the operation is scheduled for October.

Ninety percent of 1,200 respondents in Pulse Asia's most recent "Ulat ng Bayan" survey, conducted from July 13 to July 27, were aware of the exercise, the polling firm said.

Seventy-three percent of those aware of the US presence, or 65 percent of all those polled, were in favor of the exercises as well as their planned extension, Pulse Asia said.

The survey had an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

The survey also showed an increase in the percentage of those in favor of the joint exercises even as it also showed an increase in the percentage of those claiming to be aware of the exercises.

From just 86 percent in April, the awareness level shot to 90 percent toward the end of Balikatan 02-1.

The previous April survey showed that 66 percent of those aware of the US presence, or 56 percent overall, were in favor of the operation. *Norman Bordadora*

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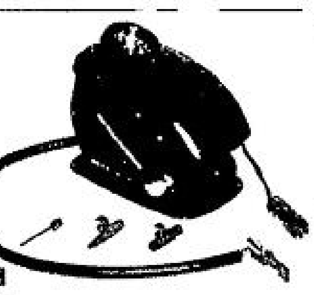

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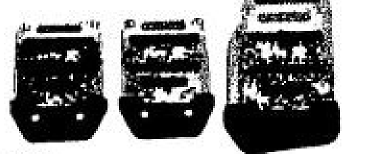

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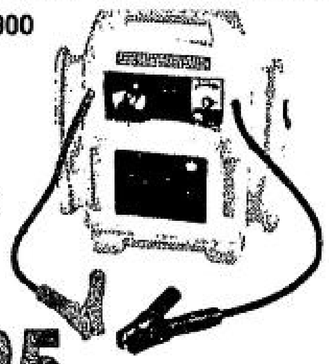

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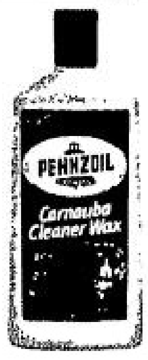

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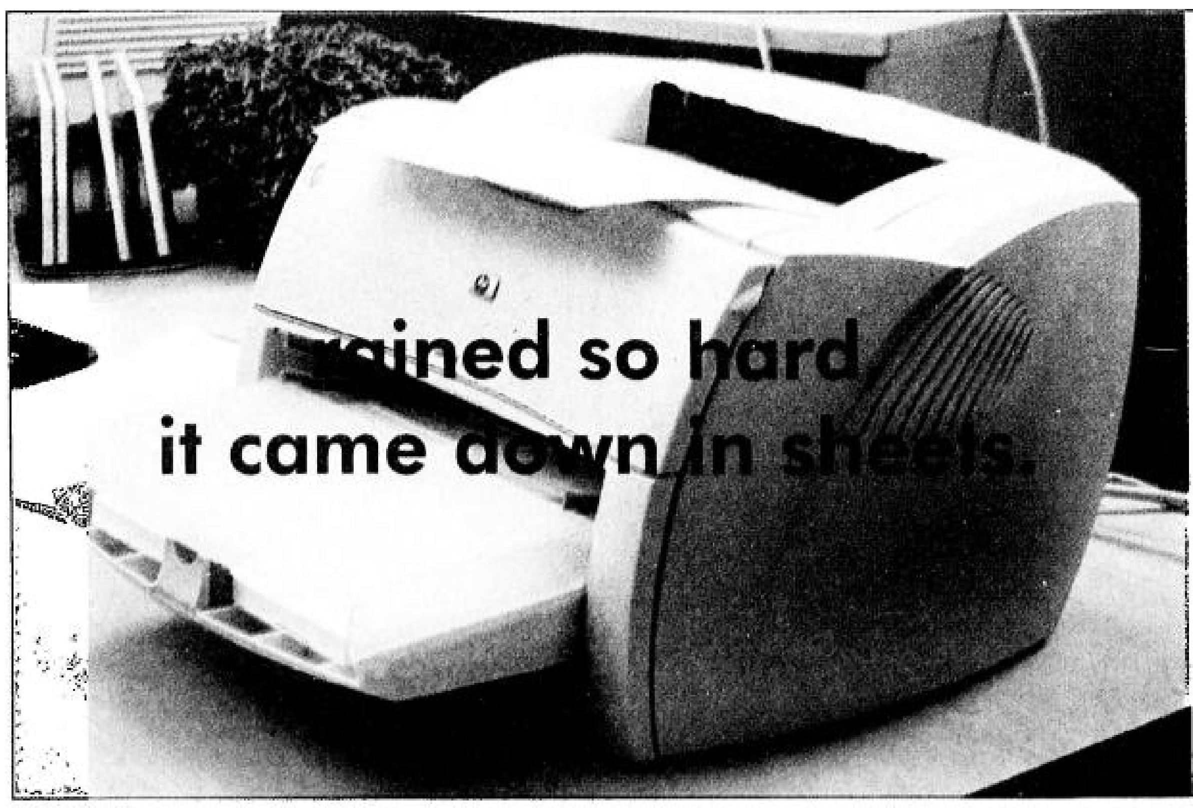

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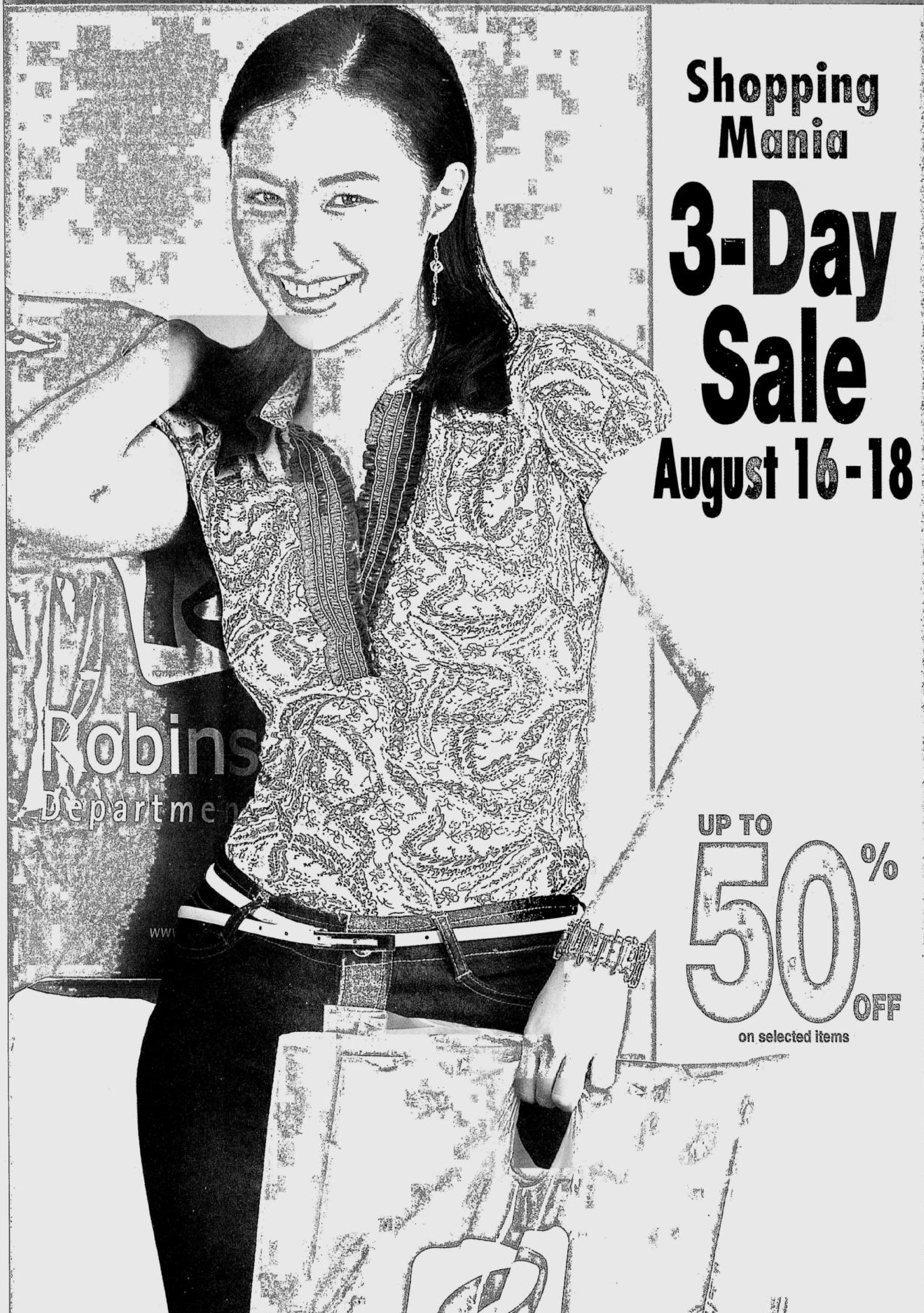

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# Cops, soldiers prepare to move on Diwalwal

**By Gerald G. Lacuarta**

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday declared an "emergency situation" in the Diwalwal gold mines area, as 600 soldiers and policemen prepared to go to Mt. Diwata to restore order and enforce the stoppage of all mining operations.

Alvarez said the declaration of an emergency was preparatory to the entry of a technical working group composed of DENR personnel and private mining advisers who would rationalize mining operations and mitigate the pollution caused by two decades of unregulated mining.

The declaration of an emergency situation was contained in Administrative Order 2002-18.

Earlier, Alvarez met with PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and AFP Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu to discuss security plans during the work stoppage.

The PNP and AFP agreed to send 300 men each to form a peacekeeping force at the 729-hectare mining site and surrounding areas in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

A sizeable security force will also be deployed to the 8,100-ha mineral reservation that was carved out of the logging concession of Picop Resources Inc., whose timber license has expired.

Emerging from a Cabinet meeting yesterday, Alvarez said the Department of Budget and Management committed to release P50 million for the construction of a mine tailings dam that would catch the residue when the Diwalwal mines are reopened.

Alvarez on Sunday had declared a government takeover of the gold-rush area in Mt. Diwata after a violent dispersal by the Army of miners who were demanding an investigation into the alleged fanning of toxic fumes in one of the tunnels, which resulted in the death of a mine worker.

# Ecija judge rapped for freeing suspect

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

A NUEVA Ecija judge is facing administrative charges for allegedly ordering the release of a suspect who had implicated the police chief of Jaen town in summary executions and kidnap-for-ransom activities.

The Philippine National Police has asked the Ombudsman to investigate Judge Erlinda Pestaño-Buted for allowing the release of Miguel de la Cruz, a confessed member of the Red Vigilante Group (RVG), which is allegedly financed by Police Supt. Reynaldo de Guzman and a certain Victor Ong.

Senior Supt. Dominador Flores Jr., Central Luzon intelligence chief, also filed administrative charges against Buted before the Supreme Court for allegedly violating the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Buted came under fire after she granted De la Cruz's supposed request to be discharged from the custody of the PNP Regional Intelligence Group in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, during a June 11 hearing.

"We wanted him to be under police custody because the RVG could easily kill him to keep him from turning a state's witness," Flores said yesterday.

"True enough, he has gone missing since he was released," he said.

De la Cruz and several other alleged RVG members, including De Guzman, are facing criminal charges for allegedly abducting and killing Julio Alejo, 48, and his 22-year-old son Julius in Nueva Ecija last year.

Police have also filed illegal possession of firearms charges against De la Cruz after he was found in possession of several guns and a grenade when he was arrested on May 3.

# Scam victims hit CIDG

NON-uniformed police personnel (NUP), dismayed by the slow pace of the Criminal Investigation and Detection's Group's (CIDG) probe into a multi-million-peso "pyramid scam," are considering taking their complaints to the National Bureau of Investigation.

The NUPs were among thousands of police and military personnel, including 19 PNP generals, who had invested a total of P1.2 billion with Exsior Enterprises.

Exsior owner Ferdinand C. Sison fled to the United States on July 31. Investors, including low-ranking police and military officers and civilians, had trooped to the CIDG soon after to file complaints. They said Sison had issued them bouncing 1checks representing their investments' guaranteed interest.

"It's been two weeks since we filed our complaints with the CIDG and nothing has happened," said a female NUP assigned at PNP national headquarters. "What's keeping (the probers) from filing charges against Exsior? This is why we are thinking of bringing our case to the NBI."

She said she renewed her P50,000 initial investment with Exsior two days before Sison fled. The money was a loan from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAI), she added. *TJ Burgonio*

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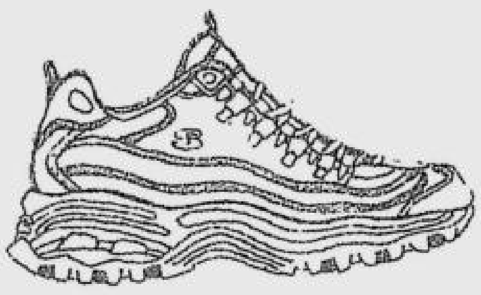

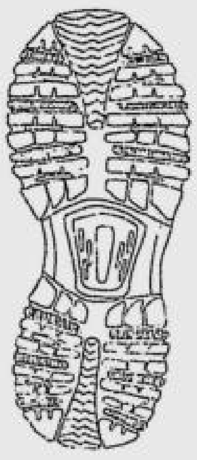

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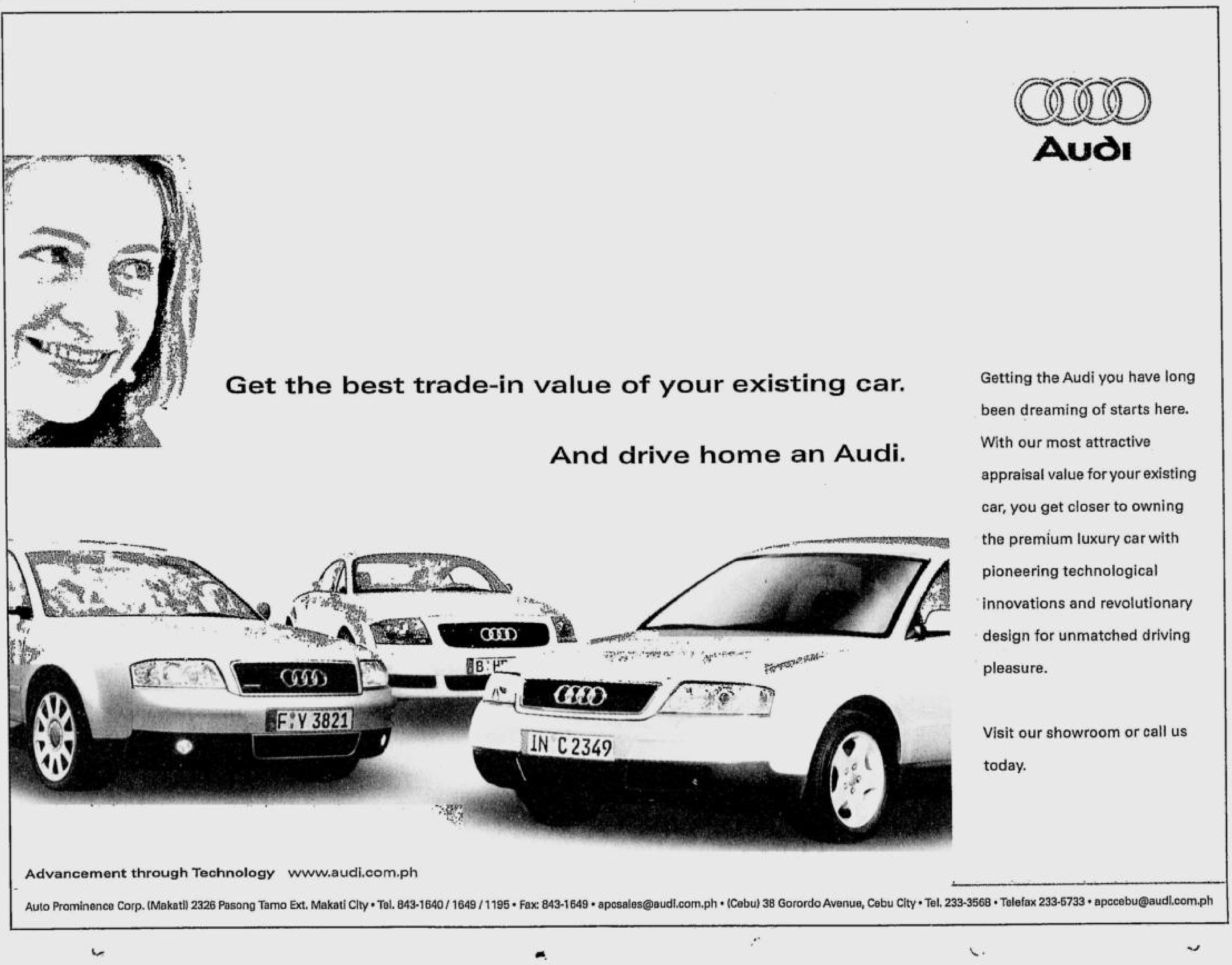

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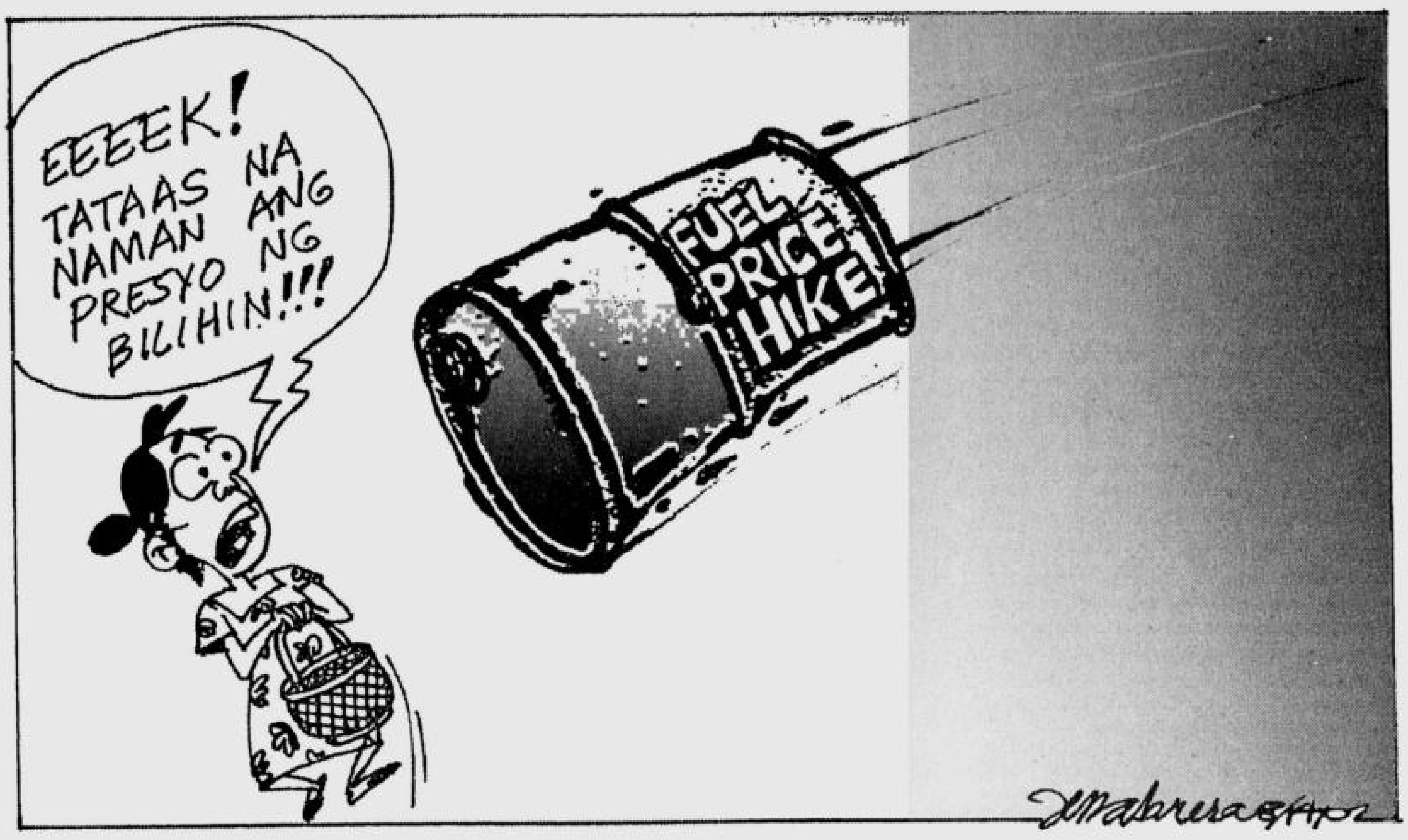
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# Quick bucks

**EDITORIAL**

FILIPINOS must really have short memories. The poor who stormed Malacañang on Labor Day last year, for instance, seemed to have quickly forgotten the incompetence and corruption of Joseph Estrada, the mansions of his many mistresses and the nightly carousing at Malacañang. Or they were simply too mesmerized by his celebrity and charisma to even care.

Now it looks as if President Macapagal-Arroyo and some friends she brought to her new administration have even shorter memories. They forgot even more quickly than Estrada's fans that it was gambling—the payoffs and the struggle for its control among his closest friends—that brought his presidency down. Or maybe they were too blinded by the glitter of gold to worry if history might repeat itself.

Less than two months after Estrada's fall, or exactly 53 days into the Macapagal administration, on March 13, 2001, the new board of directors of the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) approved eight contracts authorizing several private firms to set up gambling arcades. A little over one month later on April 17, seven similar contracts were approved. In June that year, five more were approved by the board.

All together these contracts will see Metro Manila and the cities of Cebu and Davao being flooded with thousands of slot machines. Eleven contracts alone provide for the installation of 2,000 slot machines. And these arcades will be located in some of the busiest places like hotels and shopping malls.

Pagcor officials justify the expansion of its gambling operations by saying the agency is under pressure from Congress to make more money to fund government projects. "Our objective is related to tourism expansion," said Danilo Gozo, a member of the Pagcor board. Other Pagcor officials said the state-run gambling firm needed more modern technology and equipment to be competitive globally.

No doubt slot machines are a big moneymaker. They are not called "one-armed bandits" for nothing. In fact, if the new arcades would do as well as the casinos, the 2,000 slot machines to be initially operated should generate as much as P3.2 billion in income yearly.

But guess where most of that money will come from? It will come from ordinary Filipinos and those who can least afford to throw away money, not rich foreign tourists as Pagcor officials would like the public to believe. For how many high rollers play the slot machines? And how many tourists will come here to gamble, say, near the LRT station, where one of those new gambling arcades is located, or in the malls?

The same get-rich-quick mentality that drives people to gamble seems to be at work here. Some people appear to be out to make a quick buck—and it isn't solely for Pagcor and the government.

Pagcor's partners, for one, are sure to make a killing. Under the contracts, the private firms will provide the machines and get 40 percent of the net proceeds. Pagcor which is not exactly starved for funds could have just bought the machines and kept all the profits.

But obviously the members of the Pagcor board, headed by Efraim Genuino, don't know their math. For instance, one private firm offered last year to rent out for $800 a month per table its progressive jackpot system, which gives poker players a crack at a P500,000 jackpot. The board turned the proposal down, but approved its introduction later on a 60-40 sharing arrangement. Last March when the game was first offered, each of the two progressive jackpot tables at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque netted P200,000. That meant a loss of about P300,000 for Pagcor on those two tables alone.

Was Pagcor just hedging its bets when it entered into joint ventures with several private firms to open the slot machine arcades and introduce new games? That's the kindest way of looking at it. Still, was it merely coincidence that some of the firms awarded contracts by Pagcor are headed by friends of Genuino? If some people smell something fishy in these little-examined and hastily approved contracts, are they just being uncharitable and malicious?

In their hurry to sign the contracts, the board members might even have overlooked the legal restrictions on Pagcor's franchise. A Pagcor executive said the Supreme Court has ruled in the jai-alai case that the agency cannot enter into joint ventures with the private sector.

Since Pagcor apparently has Malacañang's blessing, the option of challenging those contracts in court is open to those who frown upon the culture of gambling being promoted by the administration. Otherwise they may just have to wait until May 2004 to work for another change in administration.

# Does crime pay at the Napocor?

## AS I SEE IT

### *Neal H. Cruz*

NAMES, names! Give us names! This is what President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. are asking from the public to help in their anti-corruption drive. I gave a few in the last two columns: here are two more—from the National Power Corp. which is the principal culprit, next to President Fidel V. Ramos, in the PPA (purchased power adjustment) and the high power rates. I am not saying that the persons concerned are guilty, but am merely repeating the contents of official documents for the President's information and consideration—in case she has not seen them—to help in her anti-corruption campaign.

A Napocor official was found by an in-house investigation by auditors to be guilty of mischief that merited the filing of administrative charges for grave misconduct and criminal charges for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

So what happened? Were charges filed? Was the official suspended or placed on floating status or, at the very least, reprimanded?

No. He was promoted.

That can happen only in the Philippines.

The lucky guy, according to official documents, is a certain M.R. Abesamis, formerly a minor project director at the Napocor who has since been promoted manager of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) power complex, Napocor's biggest plant.

According to these documents, Napocor contracted out six years ago, in 1996, its Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak power transmission project to the consortium of ABB-Siemens. Abesamis was named project director.

Obviously, the role of Abesamis as project director was to see to it that the consortium complies with its obligations under the contract. However, what he did was mess with the contract in favor of the consortium to the disadvantage of the government.

Abesamis negotiated and entered into a supplemental agreement with ABB-Siemens under which some works—particularly the backfilling, spreading and compaction of access roads and tower sites—were removed from the consortium's scope of responsibilities under the original contract.

The work components removed from ABB-Siemens were transferred to another contractor, Alfine Construction, at a cost of P10 million.

Napocor higherups—not necessarily then Napocor president Guido Delgado—blocked the transaction.

An investigation was conducted by Napocor's Internal Audit Department (IAD) which deemed the transaction "highly irregular." To begin with, Abesamis had no authority to negotiate and enter into a supplemental agreement with ABB-Siemens.

A review of the contract showed that the backfilling works removed were the responsibility of the project contractor and were covered by the approved project costs. The P10-million contract with Alfine Construction, which was awarded through open canvass, was, according to the investigators, void because such open canvass is not allowed if the cost involved is more than P20,000.

Abesamis countered that Napocor president Delgado had verbally authorized him to enter into a supplemental agreement with ABB-Siemens. But the internal auditors maintained that such verbal authorization from Delgado did not vest authority on Abesamis to sign any supplemental agreement.

Abesamis also argued that the P10-million contract with Alfine would save the government money. This is ridiculous, said the auditors, because the work components to be paid for are actually covered by the original contractor's scope of services. In other words, the government was going to pay twice for the same work.

The investigators concluded that the actions of Abesamis "point to a calculated design to situate Napocor into a highly disadvantaged position to benefit the consortium and pave the way for the contracting out of backfilling work to Alfine Construction."

The investigation established that Napocor "suffered damage twice for the same backfilling works." The double whammy would have Napocor paying ABB-Siemens for work it will no longer perform, and likewise paying Alfine for the work supposedly to be undertaken by ABB-Siemens.

The investigators qualified the unauthorized acts of Abesamis as "bad faith of fraud, beyond gross negligence."

They recommended that Abesamis be charged administratively for grave misconduct which is penalized by dismissal, and criminality for separate violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

However, no case was filed against Abesamis. Instead, he was rewarded with a promotion as manager of the CBK Complex.

Ms President, how can any anti-corruption campaign succeed when erring officials, instead of being tried and punished as the law requires, are rewarded with promotions? What message does it impart to other employees? That contrary to the popular saying that crime does not pay, it really does at the Napocor?

Tomorrow, another lucky guy at the Napocor. *(To be continued)*

# Small voice, loud sound

## THERE'S THE RUB

### *Conrado de Quiros*

"IT'S a small quiet movie," Gil Portes keeps saying as he herds us into a room in Roadrunner.

Its very title proclaims it so: "Mga Munting Tinig" (Small Voices). Yes, it comes from the popular song, which bears on the story, though in a way that steers clear of the beaten path. The theme is small, the characters do not stride forth in epic glory to change the course of the world. Or so it appears on the surface. More significantly in these days of epically budgeted movies, the money is small. It was made with a very tight sum of P6 million, courtesy, if I understand right, of a program of the Department of Education. A P6-million movie is not the same thing as a Six-Million-Dollar Man, and even $6 million has much depreciated (more steeply than the American capacity for tolerance) since the 1970s. Which also means that it was made on a very small amount of time, or a very tight schedule.

But some small movies have a way of looming large on the audience's mind, or memory. Some quiet movies have a way of making the loudest sounds, or the kind you pick out in the din. "Mga Munting Tinig" is one of them.

It's a heartwarming story of a young woman, Melinda (Alessandra de Rossi), who decides to become a school teacher in an obscure village though she has the option to join her mother in the United States. The village is an impoverished one, whose members' lives are ruled as much by need as by the cycles of the seasons. It is a community for whom schooling has become a necessary evil, or unwanted inconvenience, but one that need not be prolonged or endured for very long. "You already know how to read and write," says a mother to her son, "so you can quit. Your father needs you to make copra."

It is a village that has lost hope, its members striving only to get past the day. "But only the rich may dream," one kid says in school, when pressed to tell the class what he wants to be when he grows up." The teachers themselves have become infected with the disease, falling into a dark cynicism. They prey on the kids to augment their income. Their superintendent sells ice candy and believes only in doing enough to pass official inspection. There is no sense in giving hope to the hopeless, she says, it would only frustrate them.

In sum, it is a village that, driven to trust only in the ways of survival, has gone deaf or fallen into a vast silence. It cannot hear the voices of others, the voices of the children, the voices of the heart. Melinda comes into it, and refusing to be sucked into the quicksand of despair or apathy, battles nature, fate, and the village folk themselves to do her job. In this she is aided by her love of music. Learning about a district-wide singing competition for public elementary school kids, she starts to teach the kids to sing. She ends up teaching quite more than that. She ends up teaching the community to dream again.

The premise itself is not entirely original, but Portes reworks it in a way that makes it yield true magic. He himself says it is a paean to movies like "Not One Less," which tells the story of a teenage schoolteacher in rural China who refuses to let one pupil quit from her class. But it is a wonderful piece of moviemaking nonetheless. It is heartwarming without being Reader's Digest-y, which is my complaint about some of the Hallmark offerings. It offers a gritty and unflinching look at life in a village, which is where most Filipinos live, but with no small amount of compassion. The merits of the movie owe in large part to the sureness of direction, which owe in turn to Portes being completely in tune, so to speak, with his material. You can see this one comes from the heart.

Portes shot the movie in Lucban, which is one of the few places in the country that remain incredibly lush. It adds a subtle layer of meaning of the story, which is that we are a land of vast resources—if we only have the eyes to see them. There are no big stars here, it's a team effort entirely, which is what wins championships. De Rossi is getting better all the time, and, my, she is all grown up from her "Azucena" and "Hubog" days. Portes: "She would tell me later after I complimented her, 'But Direk, I did very little acting in that movie.' I said, "Precisely." I am especially glad that Dexter Doria, Gina Alajar and Amy Austria are there, as are some Peta talents, like Malou Crisologo and Connie Chua. The movie at least practices what it preaches: we have no right to let talent go to waste.

I have only one very minor quibble with the movie, which is the atrocious sound of the singing contest in the end. Portes says he wanted a raw sound, and so retained the quality of the recording in the auditorium. But you don't have to be this raw, especially when you want to show that the kids deserved to win a prize. It strains credulity. While at that, I don't see why they have to win at all, the real victory being in their having learned to dream, whatever its results. But I suppose you can't fault a director for making concessions to a bigger audience who might miss the point, or leave the movie house grumbling, "*Bitin*," or "*Harang*."

Portes will be exhibiting the movie in Toronto, along with Joel Lamangan's "Hubog." He deserves to. His movie shows clearly that what is killing the local movie industry is not lack of money or protection from Hollywood blockbusters, it is lack of imagination and enterprise. Or more than enterprise, of boldness, the kind Portes has shown in his movies, which are huge gambles. Come to think of it, his movies have been small voices hurled at the din of our indifference and resignation to physical and spiritual impoverishment. Who knows? Maybe one day they'll teach us to listen.

Maybe one day they'll teach us to dream.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# Implications of the Powell Doctrine

## ANALYSIS

### *Amando Doronila*

THE TAGGING by US Secretary of State Colin Powell of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as "foreign terrorist organizations" has boxed the Macapagal administration in a bind from which it is now trying to extricate itself.

The designation was a unilateral US decision published in the official gazette last Friday, calling on all governments to "isolate these terrorist organizations, choke off their sources of financial support and prevent their movement across international borders."

Powell said that in listing the CPP-NPA in the category of an FTO the United States was "taking another important step in our effort to combat global terrorism." The designation broadens the scope of terrorism to include groups that are not linked to the al-Qaida terrorist networks which have been pinpointed by the United States as responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The United States quickly followed the announcement with a request to the Dutch government to freeze the National Democratic Front's assets in the Netherlands where the Filipino Marxist leaders, headed by Jose Ma. Sison, have been given political sanctuary.

The Philippine government followed suit with a request to The Hague to "prosecute" Sison, Luis Jalandoni and other communist leaders for alleged "criminal, and now, terrorist activities." Before President Macapagal-Arroyo could react to the decision, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople jumped the gun on her, saying that the decision could help "staunch the flow of finances and other support for local armed groups and thus, help prevent further conflict and additional loss of life."

It has turned out that in second guessing the President, Ople was more popish than the pope. In response to a query by Rep. Satur Ocampo, of the Left-wing Bayan Muna party, whether the government considered the CPP was a terrorist organization, the President tried to wiggle herself out of the straitjacket into which the Powell Doctrine had jammed her. Ocampo had called attention to the fact that the government was now trying to resume peace talks with the NDF.

The President said communism "is no longer against the law," saying that the Anti-Subversion Law had been repealed. She however made a distinction between communist groups engaged in "illegal…armed struggle to overthrow the government" and groups that have taken the parliamentary route like Bayan Muna, Akbayan and Sanlakas. These parties have won seats in the House of Representatives under the party-list system.

In broadening the scope of the definition of global terrorism, the Powell Doctrine brings together the US enemies during the Cold War (the communists) and those held responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks (the terrorists linked to al-Qaida networks and Osama bin Laden) in the all-embracing demonology of "global terrorists." In one fell swoop, the United States reintroduced the political vocabulary of the Cold War and incorporated it in the struggle against a new form of borderless terrorism.

Never mind if there is no evidence linking the CPP-NPA to the al-Qaida network or even the Abu Sayyaf. The linkage of the old and new foes in a new rubric where the United States, as the lone superpower of the post-Cold War era, is imposing a new hegemony aligning the security policies of its allies behind hers.

The United States is considering the dangerous option of making a preemptive attack on Iraq, if it determines that it would be attacked with terrorist means instigated by Saddam Hussein.

This opinion is making the US European allies nervous because it severely restricts their own security options and the autonomy of their foreign policies.

Along the same vein, the Powell Doctrine is a restriction of Philippine foreign policy, as well as its domestic policy, given that, first, the doctrine would staunch the growth of the parliamentary tendency in the Philippine communist movement; and, secondly, it hampers the flexibility of the Philippine government in resuming peace talks with even the externally based communist leadership.

We are not certain, at this stage, how much military involvement the United States will have in combating the communist armed groups. But we must remember that in the government's military campaign against the Huk, then NPA, rebellion from the 1950s to the 1980s, all our post-war governments had treated the rebellion as a domestic concern.

Despite the fact that the United States had strategic military bases which were the cornerstone of its policy of containment of international communism in the Asia-Pacific, American troops never came close to the combat zones, fighting with our troops. They stayed in their bases. Filipino forces fought the rebellion—albeit assisted by US military logistics. Even though we were firmly locked into the US-led alliance in the struggle against communism, we had autonomy in determining how we fought the communists.

The Macapagal administration can do no less in exercising our autonomy in fighting the wing of the communist party persisting in an apparently lost cause of armed rebellion. It has to interpret the Powell Doctrine in accordance with its implications for giving us flexibility in decimating a revolution that has now been internationally isolated. If the Europeans are resisting US "unilateralism" in building alliances to back its apparently adventuristic options to fight terrorism, there is no reason why we should not deviate from the Powell Doctrine.

# Between worlds

## AT LARGE

### *Rina Jimenez-David*

REX Navarrete was 6 months old when his parents left for the United States, leaving him with his grandparents. Three years later, they sent for him, settling first in Chicago and then in South San Francisco. It's been a restless existence since, a restlessness expressed not so much in a change of addresses but in the edgy comedy that reflects his keen sense of being between worlds.

As a first-generation Filipino-American, it became his role early in life to "interpret" America to the adults in the family and to "interpret" for the oldsters when they attempted to interact with their new environment.

"I remember when my uncles first arrived in the US," Navarrete says, "here they were, young men in their 20s, and counting on me, a boy, to help them make their way through America. I experienced my uncles' own transition to being Americans."

"Transition" is a common phase in the migrant experience, ending in either total assimilation into the dominant culture or isolation in an ethnic enclave.

As an unabashed "Filipino-American comic," Navarrete seems to be searching for a different ending to the process of transition. Or could it be that what he's seeking is never-ending transition, endless commuting between the world of the heart and racial memory, feeling and family; and the world of work and individuality, citizenship and civic participation?

What Navarrete employs in this search is sharp observation, a strong sense of irony, and a "nose" for the contradictions inherent in dual identities.

He is conscious, and indeed proud of the "ethnic" strain in his stand-up comedy. He tells another interviewer that he knows "maybe 20 percent" of his material has crossover appeal, and while he acknowledges a desire to enter the mainstream, he has no wish to dilute his material either.

* * *

**"BASTOS" is the third of the comedy CDs that Navarrete has released since 1998 (the others are "Badly Browned" and "Husky Boy"), and true to its title, it contains material that is raunchy and rowdy, sprinkled liberally with cuss words and sexually explicit details. (I can only imagine what the live action onstage is like.)**

**But it's also rich with cross-cultural references, of growing up in the '70s in the midst of the "Star Wars" madness and learning all about sex from a year's worth of "Playboy" issues. "Did you get arousal, did you get arousal, hmmm?" his mother confronts him after she finds him thumbing through a stack of "Playboys." She leaves him with no sex education other than an imprint of "Playboy December Issue" on his butt after she whips him with a rolled-up copy, but not to worry, there is always "Tito Boy."**

**"Everyone has a Tito Boy," Navarrete declares, to the wild cheering of his audience. "Tito Boy," the bachelor uncle who seems to see it as his God-given role to explain for his nephews the mysteries of sex, preferably when he's drunk. Coaching them on the intricacies of masturbation, "Tito Boy" says there's no need to get expensive lubricants from the drug store, the film of grease on the cold *adobo* is good enough. "But when you start to smell burning *crispy pata*, you're working it too hard!"**

* * *

THREE years ago, Navarrete visited the country, "back-packing and in research mode," spying on his *kababayan* and scouring the streets for comedy material, like noting the latest high-tech security measures for the very rich in Manila are "broken glass embedded in quick-drying cement" on top of towering concrete walls. ("Abort mission, abort mission!" he mimics a would-be kidnap gang. "I've got glass in my balls!")

This time around, together with his manager and childhood friend Audie Vergara, Navarrete is introducing himself to local audiences, many of whom, he says in amazement, are already familiar with his material. Some, like members of the Lopez family who invited him over to entertain guests at Gabby Lopez's birthday party, have listened and laughed to his CDs. Others know him through two animated cartoons based on his act and broadcast on the Internet—"Maritess vs. the Super Friends" and "SBC Packers." Others have seen him on The Filipino Channel in the United States, where he hosts a segment of the program "Stateside" called "Rex Files: Pinoy Undercover."

You can catch Navarrete being "*bastos*" in clubs like Sanctum in Intramuros, Green Planet and Onstage at Greenbelt in Makati this week and for about two more weeks (check out the schedules, and order his CDs, at his website: rexnavarrete.com).

And for those who miss him this time around, Navarrete says he hopes to back later this year.

* * *

**IN THE United States, where Navarrete has brought his act across the continent on college campuses and clubs, Vergara says the major appeal of Navarrete's comedy is how it makes young Filipino-Americans "realize that they belong somewhere, that they are not alone, and that they share common experiences with a whole community of strangers."**

**"I just love it when people in the audience start whispering to each other, 'Sounds just like my mom!'," Navarrete says, grinning.**

**Had it not been for ethnic studies in college at the San Francisco State University, Navarrete says he would probably be ensconced right now in mainstream America, perhaps writing film scripts for Hollywood. But it was learning about the "hidden history" of his people that impelled him to explore, through comedy, the Filipino-American experience.**

**Who knows, with what he has seen and heard here, Navarrete might yet create the new genre of magic realist comedy.**

# A haiku for Sir Franz

## COMMENTARY

### *Natalia M.L.M. Morales*

FRANCISCO Arcellana, poet, essayist, critic, teacher, was never my teacher in college. I was never enrolled in his English class since I took another course—foreign service—outside of the realm of humanities. My quest for the logic of international affairs skirted the nuance of literary expression. But not quite. For right in my department was Sir Franz's muse—now UP professor emeritus of Political Science Emerenciana Arcellana—who indirectly oriented us into some literary styles to render sublime otherwise presumptive and bland political discourse.

But the essence of teaching is not confined within the four walls of a classroom. It is in this sense that National Artist Francisco Arcellana rose to the role of being a great teacher. An eminent writer whose skillful and delicate use of the English language is lyrical and effective. His literary works of all genres, have made the rounds of high schools and colleges in the country that respect and appreciate homegrown creative genius.

His designation as National Artist for literature in 1990 clinched his hold on the Filipino literary public. He stands tall among the other Filipino geniuses in arts and culture. This despite the parsimony of their treatment by the government. In other countries like South Korea and Taiwan, special categories are created to refer to their "national living treasures." Everyone takes pride in them though their choice may continue to baffle the outsiders. But no one can question the cultural basis for the outcome. Cultural icons are worlds apart from the glitzy world of pop singers and rap artists. When they die, the latter makes the nation suffer in deceptive hysteria. The loss of cultural icons, on the other hand, truly diminishes the nation.

Better still, Sir Franz (as I was wont to address him) was a mentor looking for the meaning and simple truth in life. His recent short story, "The Mats," reflects this and has already been widely translated worldwide. Its sparse words but elegant tone makes it the best Filipino short story in recent times according to Alfredo Roces. I'm not so much into literary analysis (except for my own consumption) but Arcellana's works have to be experienced, not just understood. In fact, Sir Franz believed the less said, the more meaning there is in his writing.

It is in such context that the Japanese haiku has served as my link to his world of literary self-expression. Sir Franz had many causes in his lifetime and he fiercely battled for those he held close to heart. But to my knowledge, he did not engage in banner-waving or go to the barricades for them. His protest is within the realm of reason and pro-active expression of truth. In 1986, he was in the review board of a book project (Ateneo de Manila University Press) that came out as a volume titled Versus. Philippine Protest Poetry 1983-1986 (edited by the late Alfredo Navarro Salanga and Esther Pacheco). I submitted two haikus (on battling the Marcos regime) that became part of the volume. I tried to learn the haiku's simple yet intricate structure and style while on a Monbusho grant in Japan. The casual and breezy style of Sir Franz complements this austere but elegant oriental poetry. My entry into the world of literary self-expression couldn't have been more opportune with Sir Franz acting as the "poetic midwife." I only regret that hard political writing subsumed all else in the career I now practice. But a creative moment energizes the doer, clarifies some darkened notions, or dissipates human pain and anger. The Chinese legalists frowned on poets and literary people for not being able to contribute to the material base of wealth in society. Fortunately, for the modern world, the role of the literati is now properly acknowledged, identified and compensated though much still needs to be done. The nationalist and diplomat Salvador P. Lopez once expressed the "mirror effect" of literature on society. It can reflect and influence the values held by responsible and intelligent leaders and citizens as part of liberal education. The message and the medium matter and Sir Franz was a most ardent proponent.

The medium however presents challenges now such as its dissemination as part of standard textbooks for Philippine schools. The worsening state of the English language in the country may not do much justice to Arcellana's writings. Its translation into other Philippine dialects can capture the essence of his work but not his genius in writing in English. Modern bureaucracy has an apt phrase for it—"intellectual property." Indeed if "national artists" are the living treasures of Philippine society, it follows that their body of works must be protected from being misused, mistranslated, neglected and ignored. It is equal to a form of national betrayal for ideas of natives with the spark of genius to be warped by unknowing hands and not be allowed to live. These can inspire the values for progress and prosperity pursued with enthusiasm and will.

The works of Sir Franz Arcellana are living proof that life is simple but complicated, too. The message must be constantly discovered and redefined in the national psyche if need be.

*The bard sleeps still now*
*Eternal lines of fragrance*
*Joyful heavens bow.*

*Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. "Feedback" at nataliam91@hotmail.com.*

# From a native daughter

## COMMENTARY

### *Belinda A. Aquino*

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—Anyone returning to his or her native home invariably recalls the haunting lyricism of Thomas Wolfe's classic "You Can't go Home Again," especially if one has read it earlier for a literature course in college. It's the story of George, a writer, a transplanted Southerner in New York who goes to Europe in search of himself, finds life in great cities tragically lonely, returns to America only to find that he "can't go home again."

"Back home," narrates Wolfe about his heto George, "to the ivory tower, back home to places in the country—back home to the old forms and systems which seemed everlasting but which are changing all the time—back home to the escapes of Time and Memory." Back home to one's innocent youth, one might add. In the end, poor George hears a voice in the night saying, "To lose the earth you know, for greater knowing; to lose the life you have, for greater life; to leave the friends you loved, for greater loving…."

That was in the cataclysmic days of the 1920s which produced a "lost generation" of romantic but alienated writers and artists, who despaired over the loss of innocence and of what was happening to the world.

The state of the modern world is no better; in fact it is much worse. But the essential difference on reflection is, of course, you can always go home again. If only to revisit one's roots and recover the loss of innocence.

The sleepy town of my youth is no more. I used to be awakened by the crowing of roosters heralding another day. Now, the screeching drone of tricycles is your alarm clock.

What's more, San Fernando has become a city, for better it is hoped. I remember smirking a few years ago when I learned it was to "graduate" to cityhood. What I felt was probably similar to what a parent feels about a child's leaving or asserting independence from the protective home and hearth. It is the loss of a connection that will probably not be replaced.

But the other fact in local communities is that there is life on the other side of the tracks. Human nature has to adjust to change which is inevitable. Because that's the only way to survive. So that, unlike poor George, you don't die of a broken heart.

Part of my objection to San Fernando's "graduation" was its lack of a cosmopolitan outlook, the physical and intellectual infrastructure that makes cities great places for culture and learning. You think of, say, Dumaguete, and immediately Silliman University comes to mind. In ancient times, the once submerged city of Alexandria in Egypt had its library, now being restored by Unesco. Then, of course, if cities are not expertly managed, they become magnets for undue inmigration and ugly sites for urban blight.

Fortunately, the current city mayor, Mary Jane Crisanto Ortega, has all the indications of a sophisticated and visionary leader who knows what cities are all about. I had not met her personally until recently when I came home for a high school reunion. But she took time out from her overly hectic schedule to show me and other "*balikbayan*" around to her various projects in the city. She acted as "tour director" to Bacsil Ridge, the botanical garden, and the Pindangan ruins restoration, all of which have implications for the cultural future of the city. The Department of Tourism should give her an honorarium.

The Bacsil Ridge especially touches a chord with me because it brings back wartime memories of my childhood when I first heard the term "liberation." It was only much later that I understood what MacArthur, who impressed just about the entire postwar generation, was all about. But here on Bacsil Ridge with Mayor Mary Jane, as she is popularly known, one can do an instant revisiting of the "liberation" concept, which was attributed to the American troops. I don't mean to disparage the American effort under Maj. George Barnett, but the "liberation" of San Fernando was carried out by Filipino guerrillas, mostly Ilocanos, like my cousin Pidong Bacani who died in the firefight to recapture the ridge from the Japanese. Someday one of our historians will have to write or rewrite the whole history. There is an article written by Col. Primitivo Milan entitled "The Bloody Battle of San Fernando, La Union," detailing the events between January 6 and March 21, 1945.

So, there's one more reason one can always go home again. You learn something new about your old hometown. That new learning will become the basis for a new history, a history that comes closer to what really happened.

And thanks to Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, this trend to improve the cultural quotient of the city she now heads is precisely what I'm talking about regarding the evolution of cities. Space doesn't allow detailing my impressions of the botanical garden, which I would never have dreamed about in my generation. And the Pindangan ruins project will unravel little known facts about the early days of San Fernando (that wasn't its name then) under the friars of the Spanish era.

All the initiatives of the current mayor seem in the right direction, although, of course, problems of cityhood are inevitable as well. The amazing thing is that the articulate Mayor Mary Jane is not even Ilocano, but her Ilocano beats mine by a mile. I was thoroughly flabbergasted! I can never deliver a speech or lecture in Ilocano, this supposedly native daughter of San Fernando. Isn't that a shame! Sometimes it takes a stranger with vision and a dispassionate perspective to better appreciate a new home and new surroundings.

But at least, I came home, didn't I? Better still, unlike George, I've demonstrated that, of course, you can always go home again.

*Belinda A. Aquino, visiting Southeast Asia during the summer, is back at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies.*

## THEY SAID

### Hard to accept

"She left her children behind to come and care for old people. All she wanted is to help us… We find it hard to accept this blow."

***—Miriam Elkavetz, the Israeli woman being cared for by suicide bombing victim Adelina Cunanan***

### Fighting crime by humiliation

"I'll continue to present criminals before the public. I'll teach the lesson by humiliation if necessary."

***—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo***

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# NBI to continue Ramirez investigation

MAY I issue a rejoinder to the editorial and news item which appeared in your widely read newspaper involving Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez and the role of the National Bureau of Investigation in the case.

Ramirez claims that she was the "whistle-blower" in the P26-billion suspicious account at the Binangonan branch of LandBank.

We wish to inform you that LandBank president Margarito Teves to whom Ramirez allegedly mentioned the account, did not inform the NBI about the revelation because he did not want to unduly influence the investigation of the NBI. If indeed Ramirez was a "whistle-blower," the NBI has no problem with that and we can even suggest that she be given appropriate award or commendation.

But, the P26-billion account is entirely different from the four fictitious accounts which became the beneficiaries of the tax scam. The said accounts received the bulk of the P203 million from January to June 2002, and the cashiers during this period according to the branch manager, Artemio San Juan Jr., were Ramon Joven (January to April), and Ramirez (April up to the present).

In a sworn statement, San Juan said that "if there is anybody who should be charged for non-disclosure, it should be Joven and Ramirez who wantonly and deliberately concealed from me the affairs of four fictitious accounts which became the basis of the instant case."

This is the reason the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) issued Resolution 109 on Aug. 8, 2002 directing the NBI to investigate those involved. Thus, the NBI will investigate all concerned persons, Ramirez included, as she was a bank official when the transactions happened.

I do not have a wooden heart. I apologize even to our employees and janitors if necessary. I understand the feelings of Ramirez and the others being investigated, but we have our own duties to perform. In this particular case, since we are only doing our duties, sadly, we have no need to make apologies. If no evidence will be found against Ramirez, she will be cleared, but she will be charged if the evidence warrants. This is the task facing the NBI.

Significantly, during an interview in the early morning program, "Alas Singko Y Media," Ramirez herself admitted that she was not presented by the NBI director as a suspect. She was brought to the President from the interview room to the office of the director where the President was.

In the absence of any legal reference on the matter, it is the policy of the NBI to present only suspects who have already been charged in court. We are fully aware of this policy and therefore we could not have violated it as imputed in the case of Ramirez. It is unfortunate that this episode has reached the stage where the real issues have been eclipsed by personal perceptions of oppression or injustice. We at the NBI are also saddened by it because the NBI has never been known to violate human rights or transgress human dignity.

May I repeat that if Ramirez is indeed the whistle-blower in the P26-billion suspicious account, then we congratulate her. But the investigation of the four fictitious accounts that could lead to violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Law is an entirely different matter and this is what the NBI is looking into. If Ramirez is not involved then she will be cleared, but if she is, then charges will be filed against her.

**—REYNALDO G. WYCOCO,**
**director, National Bureau**
**of Investigation,**
**Taft Avenue, Manila**

## Talk show fixture

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos seems to be all over the place and enjoying the restored freedoms and democratic space the Filipino people fought for during People Power I.

The grandstanding daughter of the dictator is a frequent guest on TV and radio talk shows, including ABS-CBN which his father closed down during martial law. She has ridden on the twin issues of the MLSA and the proposed anti-terrorism bill as though she were the right person to talk and pontificate about these two matters of national import, forgetting perhaps that her father was a gracious host of the US military bases for almost 20 years of his dictatorial rule and that the Marcos regime was the foremost exponent of state sponsored terrorism and human rights abuses.

How times change, indeed. *Magpakatotoo ka*, Rep. Imee Marcos!

**—FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green**
**Leaves St., Capitol Green Village,**
**Tandang Sora, QC**

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## Major flaw in graft and corruption cases filed

THE COLUMN of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan titled "Tip of the iceberg" (PDI, 8/3/02) encourages me to write to remind President Macapagal-Arroyo that her crusade against graft and corruption in the Philippines will surely fail if this scourge is not made a "high-risk and low-profit" venture.

Take the case of the celebrated Manalili case which is the first successful prosecution of a plunder case as mentioned by Cunanan. The syndicate therein stole P397 million of taxpayers money but not a centavo was recovered because as told to me by Judge Diosdado Peralta of the RTC Quezon City now Justice Peralta of the Sandiganbayan, no preliminary attachment was filed by the Office of the Ombudsman to recover the stolen money from Manalili, et al.

This recent case committed by Artemio San Juan, branch manager of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Binangonan branch involving more than P203 million will again suffer the same fate if the Ombudsman does not file any preliminary attachment proceedings against the culprits.

In spite of the billions of pesos stolen from our government by grafters and corrupt government officials, the Research and Statistical Section of the Sandiganbayan shows that no significant monetary recovery from grafters and corrupt government officials was made by our government simply because the Ombudsman did not file preliminary attachment against the real and personal property of the culprits since 1979 up to the present.

We have all the laws to recover stolen money from grafters and corrupt government officials but it seems the prosecution is intentionally not availing of these laws to recover stolen money because they may be getting some "considerations" from the culprits who will ultimately use the same stolen money to bribe their way out of detention, prosecution or even incarceration once they are convicted.

**—PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,**
**president emeritus,**
**Philippine Trial Lawyers Association Inc., and**
**senior deputy director**
**for developmental legal aid,**
**Integrated Bar of the Philippines,**
**4th Floor, IBP Bldg.,**
**15 J. Vargas Ave.,**
**Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

## Lopsided regard for gov't personnel

THE MANDATORY 5 percent increase in government employees' salaries last year took effect in July 2001 instead of January 2001. This meant additional savings for the government of more than P3.5 billion.

This year, the budget secretary announced that government employees should not expect anything more than their basic salary and the mandated bonuses like the 13th month pay (PDI, 7/4/02) because of the present budget deficit. This announcement came just as salaries of policemen and military personnel increased two-fold, although it would be done at a staggered basis (initially, 25 percent).

If this trend continues until the end of this administration, I just hope and pray that the next administration would be more government personnel-friendly.

**—ZENAIDA RISSA G. CRUZ,**
**Sta. Cruz, Manila**

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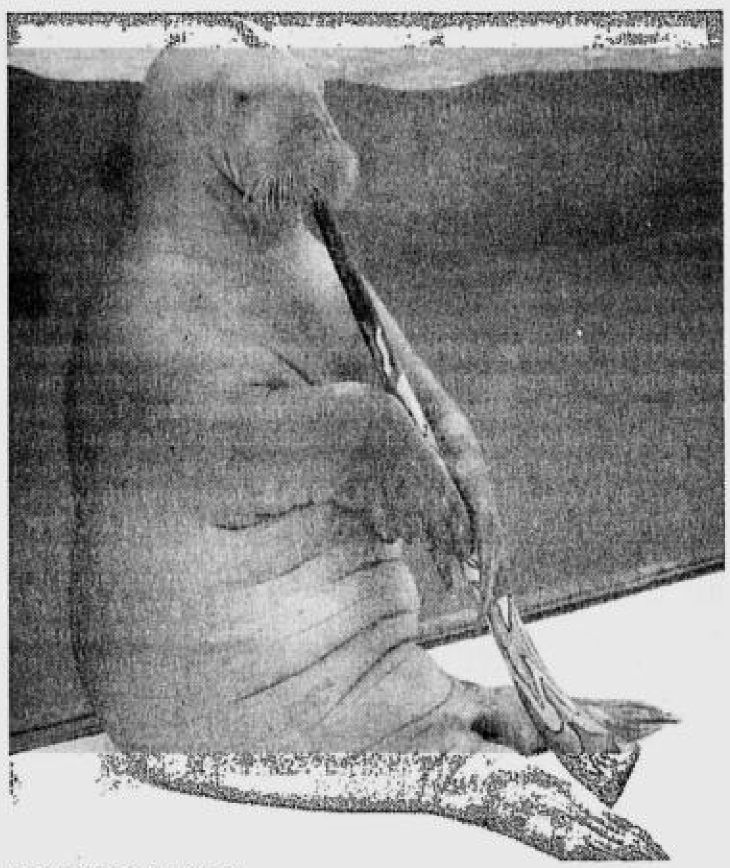
# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



**WARM WALRUS** GETTY IMAGES

**A walrus poses in the heat, August 9, in the aquarium at Yokohama Aqua Museum. Japan has been experiencing high temperatures for the past 11 days.**

# Iraq backtracks on arms inspection offer to UN

**WASHINGTON—Baghdad appeared to dash international hopes for renewed UN arms monitoring Monday after hinting for weeks the weapons inspectors could return, drawing a dismissive response from Washington.**

In an interview with Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television, Iraqi Information Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf ruled out a return of UN weapons inspectors, saying they had finished their work, and described as "pure invention" US accusations Baghdad had not disarmed according to UN resolutions adopted after the 1991 Gulf War.

But Foreign Minister Naji Sabri later said Iraq was drafting a reply to a letter from UN chief Kofi Annan asking whether it accepted the Security Council's terms for a resumption of weapons inspections.

Sahhaf's comments appeared to dim international hopes the inspectors could return soon to Iraq and forestall an expected US invasion.

UN arms inspections were interrupted in 1998 and Baghdad has not allowed them to resume. However, Iraq invited the chief UN arms inspector, Hans Blix, to Baghdad 10 days ago amid a new flurry of speculation about a possible US attack.

A State Department spokesperson scoffed at the latest statements from Baghdad.

"I don't see any particular news in that. I think we've been quite clear that Iraq continues to refuse to give a straightforward answer to the UN," spokesperson Philip Reeker said.

"(The Iraqi government) refused to face up to their obligations and continue to obfuscate and look for ways to move the goal posts when it's a simple situation. (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) understands exactly what need to be done: that is comply fully with the UN Security Council resolutions and disarm." UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard declined to comment on Sahhaf's remarks, saying the organization was still waiting for a reply to Annan's letter.

"The last thing we said to Iraq officially was in the secretary general's letter to the foreign minister and we are still awaiting an official reply to that letter," he said.

In his letter, Annan asked the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to confirm it agreed to the Security Council's terms on disarmament and weapons inspections before Blix accepted the invitation to Baghdad.

The letter emphasized Iraq must comply with every point of Resolution 1284, the last major overhaul of the council's Iraq policy, adopted in 1999.

Washington has repeatedly accused Iraq of harboring terrorists and developing biological and chemical weapons. US President George W. Bush has called for a change of regime in Iraq "by any means necessary," but also has promised to consult allies and the US Congress before taking any action. *AFP*

# Israel court approves exile of bombers' kin

JERUSALEM—An Israeli military court approved the expulsion of three relatives of suspected Palestinian militants from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip Monday in the first application of a controversial new deterrent policy, public television reported.

The Center for the Defense of the Individual (Moked), an Israeli rights group which took on the trio's case, said it would appeal the ruling to the Israeli Supreme Court.

The military court in the West Bank settlement of Beit El made its decision in the case of Intissar Adjuri, 34, from the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, whose brother is wanted in connection with a July ambush of a Jewish settler bus in which nine people were killed, the television said.

But the ruling also applies to her brother Kifah, 28, and Abdel Nasser Assidi, 34, from the village of Tel, whose brother is also wanted in connection with the attack, the television added.

Moked, which mounted the trio's appeals against the original expulsion orders, slammed the new ruling as a "collective punishment contrary to international law and natural rights."

The ruling gave the three until Tuesday to lodge their appeal with the Supreme Court, "failing which they will be deported the same day for a period of two years," the rights group complained, adding that it would nonetheless undertake the 11th-hour appeal.

If the trio are thrown out to the Gaza Strip, it will be the first time Israel has used the controversial penalty since the current Palestinian uprising began in September 2000.

The Israeli army and right-wing dominated government have sought tougher measures against the families of Palestinian militants as a new form of retaliation and deterrence.

The three were among 21 Palestinians arrested last month because they were related to militants who killed a total of 14 people in two bloody July attacks.

Israeli law, inherited from the inter-war mandate period of British rule, allows for the transfer of Palestinians living in the West Bank or Gaza Strip if it transpires "they personally represent a security threat."

But the United States has voiced its disapproval of the controversial deportation move, while Palestinians have called it a "war crime" in breach of international law. *AFP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### US aid for Colombia

BOGOTA—A top US official arrives here Tuesday to discuss US aid to combat terrorism and drug trafficking with President Alvaro Uribe, who has placed Colombia under a state of emergency to deal with an upsurge in guerrilla violence. US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman will spend two days here and also meet Vice President Francisco Santos, Foreign Minister Carolina Barco and Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez, and hold talks with business leaders and human rights groups. Grossman will review US aid, worth about $1.5 billion, for the efforts of the new Colombian government to defend the country's democracy against the threat of terrorism and drugs, a State Department official said. His visit comes 24 hours after Uribe declared a state of emergency and announced a new tax to cover increased spending on the army and police in response to a spike in rebel violence. *AFP*

### Second day of Koreas talks

SEOUL—North and South Korea started a second day of high-level reconciliation talks Tuesday with the South seeking to fix dates for crucial military meetings. While anti-communist demonstrators burned a North Korean flag outside, the two sides closed on an accord to hold new reunions of families separated by the division of Korea before the September 21 fall harvest holiday, sources close to the talks said. They also agreed in principle to reactivate economic talks in late August and to resume Red Cross talks on separated families in September, the sources said. Rhee Bong-Jo, a top official with the South's unification ministry, said: "The talks are proceeding in a good atmosphere we are making efforts to narrow differences." But in a sign of lingering hostility to the North, about 60 elderly protesters from right wing groups and relatives of South Koreans killed during the 1950-53 Korean War staged an unauthorized rally outside the hotel where the talks were held. *AFP*

### Mother Teresa, greatest Indian

NEW DELHI, India—Mother Teresa, the Yugoslav-born Catholic nun who spent her life caring for the poor in the slums of Calcutta, has been voted the greatest Indian in a magazine poll. In a survey by "Outlook" magazine to rank the "Greatest Indians of independent India," Mother Teresa polled the highest number of votes from more than 50,000 responses. India marks the 55th anniversary of its independence from British colonial rulers on Thursday. Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1979 for her work in Calcutta, beat India's charismatic first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who came in second. Indira Gandhi, India's prime minister for 15 years, placed fourth in the list of 10. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was tenth in the list, two places behind cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. "Is it some sort of comment on 55 years of Indian history that the person voted the greatest Indian is the only one in the list who was not born in India?," Outlook magazine observed in its editorial. The magazine decided not to include India's best-known citizen, Mohandas K. Gandhi, saying they preferred to "keep the father of our nation above a voting process." *AP*

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# Malaysia's 'cruel' policy on illegals assailed

KUALA LUMPUR—Rights groups and businesses increased the pressure on the Malaysian government Tuesday over new immigration laws that Amnesty International has called "cruel" and construction firms have said would cost the industry millions of dollars.

The two-pronged assault came as 13 illegal immigrants, mainly from Indonesia, became the first to be sentenced to caning and jail terms under the new legislation effective from August 1.

"Whipping someone with a cane is cruel, inhuman and degrading. International standards make clear that such treatment constitutes torture. Such a punishment should have no place in today's world," Amnesty said in a statement.

At the same time, a senior government source said that a ban on Indonesian workers in the construction industry was likely to be lifted because the crackdown on illegal immigrants had hit the sector hard.

A cabinet committee on foreign workers reportedly recommended the move after appeals by property developers, who have warned that delays in major projects could cost millions of dollars and cause house prices to rise as much as 10 percent.

### Recruitment

The Home (Interior) Ministry is expected to announce its approval of the recruitment of Indonesian workers soon, the official said ahead of a review of the recommendation by the full cabinet Wednesday.

Human Resources Minister Fong Chan Onn said the government was aware of the severe shortage of workers in the construction industry and would resolve the problem in the "shortest possible time."

"We will facilitate the intake of new foreign workers, shorten the process of approval, and widen the source of intake to include Vietnam, Burma, Nepal and so on," he said.

Two factors compound the scarcity of labor: the new laws have sent 300,000 illegal immigrants scurrying home in the past few months, and two riots early this year prompted the the government to ban hiring Indonesians in the construction industry.

Illegal Indonesian immigrants made up 70 percent of the building industry's 500,000 foreign workers, according to the vice president of the Master Builders Association of Malaysia, Patrick Wong.

Indonesians are favored by employers because of a shared language and culture, and some contractors say only Indonesians are prepared to put up with the harsh equatorial heat and tough conditions on construction sites. *AFP*

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# Swedish woman joins Burma rebels

MAE SOT, Thailand—A Swedish female backpacker who journeyed to the Thai-Burma border to teach English has signed up to fight with a rebel army battling Burma's junta, a militia spokesperson said Tuesday.

Karen National Union (KNU) commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ne Da, said the 19-year-old woman joined the force a month ago and had already taken part in two military actions against Burma troops.

Identifying her only as Catherine, he said she had adopted the nom de guerre of "Vanja." The Bangkok Post printed a photograph of her wearing jungle fatigues, hand grenade clips, a large bush knife and an M-16 rifle.

"She has the rank of sergeant because she is a teacher for the fighters as well as being one of our soldiers," Ne Da said.

Catherine, a volunteer firefighter in her home country, was drafted into Ne Da's Supreme Command 201 battalion and received weapons and other military training.

On July 6, she took part in an attack on a base opposite Pop Phra district in Tak province, about 17 km from the Thai border.

The commander said Catherine was one of a growing number of foreign fighters who have joined up with the KNU, one of the few rebel armies still resisting Rangoon's rule.

## Fighters

Four foreign men—from the United States, Germany, Scotland and Austria—signed up over the past year and two more recruits arrived in recent weeks, he said.

Catherine told the Bangkok Post that she was inspired to join the KNU when she saw a seriously wounded rebel soldier being brought back to base after a clash with Burma forces.

"I am moved by these people's yearning for independence and democracy," she told the daily.

Not surprisingly, her parents are unhappy about their young daughter joining the militia and planned to visit her next month to check on her progress, she said.

Thai military authorities told the Post that they believed Catherine had crossed into KNU-controlled territory illegally, but they could not take legal action as long as she was on Burma soil.

Burma's military government estimates the KNU has about 7,000 fighters. Late last month the junta said it was willing to negotiate a ceasefire to end the group's decades-long independence campaign.

Deputy military intelligence chief Major-General Kyaw Win said the government acknowledged the KNU was fighting for the cause of the Karen minority and was therefore entitled to "exchange arms for peace." *AFP*

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## Army traces NPA links of gov't execs

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A Philippine Army official on Sunday ordered a keen watch on two local government officials in Aurora and Nueva Ecija after they allegedly approved the trip of two government ambulances believed to be carrying wounded communist rebels.**

Lt. Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the Army's 702 Infantry Brigade, claimed the Nueva Ecija official even escorted one of the ambulances.

Speaking to the Inquirer from Bongabon in Nueva Ecija, Narcise said the two vehicles passed through Army checkpoint s after soldiers from the 70th Infantry Battalion engaged some 30 New People's Army rebels in a firefight in San Luis, Aurora on Saturday.

He said a certain Delfin Pimentel, also known as Ka Medy, heads the NPA unit. Pimentel, according to Army reports, was "seriously wounded" in the 30-minute clash in Sitio Salacsac in Barangay Ditumabo, San Luis.

"Mysteriously, two local government ambulances, one with an approved trip ticket from a local government official from Aurora and one ambulance escorted by a local government official from Nueva Ecija passed through the checkpoints (a few) hours after the encounter," Narcise said.

The Army on Saturday set up checkpoints in all routes coming from Aurora.

Narcise declined to name the two officials pending an investigation.

He said they have also placed the patients carried by the ambulances under strict watch. Hospitals and clinics in Nueva Ecija and Aurora have likewise been monitored for casualties, he said.

Narcise said no government troops died or were wounded in the gunfight.

The Army reported seizing an M-16 Armalite rifle, a radio antenna, antigovernment documents and personal belongings from the clash site.

According to military reports, pursuit operations have been ongoing since Saturday night.

Narcise said Pimentel's unit ambushed government troopers and blew up a V-150 armored vehicle in Barangay Canili, Maria Aurora town in Aurora on June 2. Two soldiers were killed while four others were wounded in that ambush.

The Army's 702 IB and the families of the soldiers filed criminal charges against Pimentel's group before the Commission on Human Rights in Central Luzon, Narcise said.

In a meeting on "criminality and terrorism" last week, members of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) in Central Luzon reported that 56 barangay captains in the region were "communists."

The officials' identities were withheld but Army officials in the council said most of them were from Tarlac.

The RPOC—comprised of Central Luzon governors, Army and police officials, and leaders from the private sector—approved a resolution allowing the recruitment of "more militiamen" in the region.

The council did not give figures on the planned recruitment but noted that Bulacan's coastal areas alone need about 600 militiamen.

In Baganga, Davao Oriental, residents of hinterland villages said they were the first to suffer from President Macapagal Arroyo's declaration of war against the NPA.

The residents said soldiers who were in hot pursuit of communist rebels since last week have continuously harassed them. Some locals were allegedly mauled by Army soldiers and militiamen because of suspicions that they were rebel supporters.

"The military have even dug a mass grave for us. They threatened to kill us if we do not tell the whereabouts of the rebels," Ruel Tagupa, 23, of Barangay Binondo said.

Tagupa also swore that he and 15 other males were mauled on suspicion of being NPA members.

Manolito Tersa, 35, a church worker in Barangay Matanog said, "we are being terrorized by the soldiers of the state."

"We are not NPA rebels but we could not also stop them from coming to our village," Tersa said.

But Major Alexis Gopico, commanding officer of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the allegations were part of the NPA's propaganda against the government. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**REPRESENTATIVES** of indigenous peoples sacrifice a pig during rites that also include protesting the government's total war policy, during the celebration of Indigenous People's Week held in Quezon City.

DENNIS SABANGAN

## Rice stocks in Davao down by 88%

DAVAO CITY—The volume of rice inflow to the city dipped by as much as 88 percent compared to the early days of this year.

Romulo Bautista, manager of the National Food Authority here, said an inventory conducted by his office for July found that only 2,400 bags were transported to the city, a far cry from January's 20,395 bags.

Bautista said the drastic decrease in the inflow of rice stocks was mainly due to infestation of rice fields in Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

The early effects of the prolonged drought aggravated the damage caused by the infestation.

Bautista admitted that the limited inflow of rice in the city created a shortage of supply, which, in turn, triggered increases in the market prices.

The average price of commercial rice in July was 12 percent higher than that of the same period last year.

"That's an increase of roughly P3 per kilo," NFA assistant manager Filemon Cradejo said.

As of July 30, the wholesale price of well-milled rice (WMR) ranged from P18.60 to P20 a kilo, while regular milled rice (RMR) was sold at P17.20 to P18.40 per kilo.

But in the early days of this month, WMR price surged to P22 per kilo while RMR price was slightly higher at P18.50 per kilo.

To remedy the problem, Bautista said the NFA had imported 240,000 sacks in mid-July. Some 75,000 bags of the imported rice were sent to Davao del Norte while Davao Oriental was given 25,000 bags.

But Bautista said the imported rice sent to the provinces were not enough as provincial governments have asked for new deliveries.

"This illustrates that the production areas supplying Davao City are not producing enough," he said.

Bautista said the NFA was expecting about 100,000 sacks rice from India later this month to further boost supply.

Bautista also proposed that consumers make use of rice extenders like corn or *kamote* (sweet potato).

"Although rice is the staple food of Filipinos, it's not necessary for survival," he said. *Kamote* and cassava can also be used as food substitutes for rice.

But members of the city council described the rice shortage as alarming. Yesterday, the council passed a resolution asking Malacañang to immediately address the situation.

The legislators also called for an inquiry to determine whether the shortage was real or just the result of hoarding.

Councilor Isidro Ungab said that contrary to the NFA figures, price increases were monitored at P25 per kilo for high-grade rice.

WMR, he said, was being sold at P21 per kilo while low-grade rice was priced at P20. *Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Catanduanes gov hits back at recall group

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Responding to the recall move against him, Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. yesterday accused Vice Gov. Cesar Sarmiento and two members of the provincial board of having committed various irregularities even as he denied reports of his own wrongdoings.

Verceles said in a statement sent to the Inquirer that Sarmiento is being investigated and a recall move is also being prepared against him for alleged manipulation of the provincial scholarship examinations; overpricing and unauthorized procurement of equipment, supplies and gasoline; and irregular use of a government vehicle.

He also accused the vice governor of having unduly delayed the passage of the 2002 provincial budget, which delayed the salaries of casual employees monitoring the environment for four months.

He said this resulted in unrealized income from quarry fees amounting to hundreds of thousands of pesos and rampant illegal logging when the workers quit their jobs.

Sarmiento was not available for comment.

Verceles said two other provincial officials namely Edwin Tanael and Angeles Tablizo, both members of the provincial board, are being investigated for various anomalies, which he did not enumerate.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago denied Verceles' accusation of a power grab by his group. *Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## Suspected Ecleo in-law nabbed for carrying shabu

**By Jolene R. Bulambot**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—A woman believed to be an in-law of detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. was charged with illegal possession of drugs yesterday after she was allegedly caught carrying three packs of shabu inside a ship.

Charged before the city prosecutor's office was Rubylyn Ecleo, 22, now detained at the city police office.

Sources said a report from the Maritime Police identified Rubylyn as the wife of the cult leader's nephew. The report, however, did not identify the name of Rubylyn's husband.

Rubylyn refused to talk to reporters. She merely told them that her husband is an Ecleo. The detained cult leader also turned down requests for interview yesterday.

Ruben Jr. is detained at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center here on parricide charges. He was accused of killing his wife, Alona Bacolod, whose decomposing body was found inside a garbage bag in Dalaguete town, about 80 kilometers south of this city.

Rubelyn was arrested by members of the Maritime Police, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Cebu Port Authority police inside the MV Guian at about 6 p.m. on Aug. 10. The ship came from San Jose, Surigao del Norte and had just docked at the port.

Authorities were conducting routine inspection of passengers before they were allowed to disembark from the vessel.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group regional director, said 0.94 gram of methamphetamine hydrochloride were seized from Rubylyn.

The three packs of shabu were concealed inside a cigarette pack, he added.

Diocos said they were looking into the possibility that Rubylyn had planned to hand over the illegal drugs to the detained cult leader.

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to occasionally rough.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Rains | **HI 26°** | Lo 23° |
| **Baguio** | Rains | **HI 24°** | Lo 15° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Rains | **HI 31°** | Lo 25° |
| **Laoag** | Rains | **HI 32°** | Lo 23° |
| **Clark Zone** | Rains | **HI 20°** | Lo 24° |
| **Tagaytay** | Rains | **HI 27°** | Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Rains | **HI 29°** | Lo 24° |
| **Calapan** | Rains | **HI 28°** | Lo 23° |
| **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 29°** | Lo 24° |
| **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 29°** | Lo 24° |
| **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 31°** | Lo 24° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 31°** | Lo 23° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | **HI 30°** | Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/14/02

## ROUNDUP

### Drive vs rate hikes

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of several electric cooperatives in Luzon will gather here on Thursday to kick off the nationwide signature campaign for the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act to reduce power rates in the rural areas. The party-list group Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) will gather at least one million signatures from rural electric consumers nationwide to persuade President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately issue an executive order implementing the pro-electric consumer provisions under the Epira. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

### Teacher found dead

CALABANGA, Camarines Sur—An elementary school teacher, who was working overtime in her classroom, was found dead yesterday morning at the Calabanga Pilot School. Chief Insp. Marcos Rivero, police chief here, identified the victim as Robina Marizcal, single, 52, a grade four teacher. Rivero said a co-teacher, who reported the incident, discovered Marizcal's body early morning with a hack wound on her nape. He said the police have no leads yet but claimed that the motive of the killing might be robbery. He said Marizcal's bag was missing. ***Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Mediaman writes '30'

SAN PABLO CITY—Local reporter and columnist Antonio B. Valencia, 55, of Calauan, Laguna died of liver ailment on Aug. 6. He was still writing a column and articles for this week's issue (August 12-18, 2002) of The Monday Mail and the Laguna Courier when he suffered an attack. Colleagues said Valencia, who was a government employee and former president and regional chair of the Lions Club-San Pablo City Chapter, did not show any sign of health problem on July 27 when he inducted into office the newly elected officers of the organization. He is survived by his widow Emelita, son John Wilkenson and daughter California. His body was cremated at the Biñan Crematorium on Monday. ***Romulo O.Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### NPA leader captured

LEGAZPI CITY—Army troops captured on Sunday a New People's Army leader after a two-minute firefight with five NPA guerillas operating in Sorsogon province. Lt. Col. Romeo C. Cabatic, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, identified the captive NPA leader as Arnel Estiller alias Ka Ramsey, commander of Guerilla Front 80. Cabatic said 2nd Lt. Ronalson C. Cutillon and his men were on combat patrol at Sitio Liman, Barangay San Francisco, Bulan, Sorsogon when the five suspected rebels opened fire at them. No casualty was reported on the government side. ***Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Fake P500 bills

LEGAZPI CITY—Operatives of the Tabaco City police, maritime police and Philippine Coast Guard arrested five persons on Friday for allegedly using fake P500 bills in paying for their fare in the MV Eugenia ship. Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, city police chief, identified those arrested as Silvino Inihao, Lorna Monsales, Rodel Sabanal, Bonifacio Amistoso and Gina Dimiyo, all residents of Cebu City. Reports said the suspects had victimized several traders in Catanduanes. Recovered from the suspects was a brown envelope containing 78 pieces of fake P500 bills allegedly owned by one Silvino Dungog. ***Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### 80 new homes

LEGAZPI CITY—Eighty families received new homes in Barangays Guinacutan and Sto. Domingo, Vinzons. Mayor Jose Segundo and Department of Social Welfare and Development Bicol director Consolacion Arafiles turned over the shelter units to the two barangays. The DSWD funded the housing project that cost P2 million. Some P3,500 was collected from each family beneficiary as their counterpart. Some of the families used to be squatters along the main road of Vinzons and riverbanks. ***Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Women's project

LEGAZPI CITY—Social welfare regional director Consolacion Arafiles turned over to Basud town Mayor Silverio Quinones P130,833.50 to fund a livelihood projects with 25 women beneficiaries under the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Self Employment Assistance Kaunlaran Project. ***Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

# Fake bomb causes panic in Legazpi

THE fake bomb

LEGAZPI CITY—A fake bomb inside a gift-wrapped carton box placed beneath a car caused panic in the city's downtown area yesterday, paralyzing traffic for one hour, sending people scampering to safety and forcing business establishments to suspend transactions.

Senior Roger Medalla, police investigator, said a security guard of the Liberty Commercial Center noticed the box under a Nissan pick-up parked in front of the establishment at about 12 noon.

Medalla said the supposed bomb was connected to an old six-volt motorcycle battery and a cell phone.

The object did not contain any explosive material, he said. A bomb expert defused it at about 1 p.m. using a disruptor.

Romy Tan, owner of the Liberty Commercial Center, said the planting of the fake bomb had nothing to do with his business competitors.

"My rivals in the business industry are practicing the highest sense of professionalism. Maybe the doer just wanted to call the attention of police officials," he said without elaborating.

He claimed he had not even received any threat from the communist New People's Army.

Police are now tracing the persons behind the bomb scare. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Clergy rally behind dismissed workers

GEN. TRIAS, Cavite—About 130 priests, nuns and seminarians from Cavite City and Tagaytay City on Monday joined 26 workers who picketed the Gateway Business Park in Javalera here, where the Japanese firm Sanno Philippines Manufacturing Co. is located.

The workers were protesting their dismissal from the company, which they said was unfair because a court had already decided in their favor.

The workers were accused of qualified theft and 23 of them were jailed.

Judge Lerio Castigador of the General Trias Municipal Trial Court, in his decision on June 24, dismissed the case for lack of probable cause.

The "accused, aside from meeting head-on complainant's allegations, has shown the motive of filing the complaint which is supposedly to bust the union by harassing union members and sympathizers. Thus, this case is hereby dismissed and the jail warden of General Trias accordingly ordered to release all the detained accused," Castigador said.

Imus Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle, who had helped secure the release of the workers, lamented that while the court exonerated the falsely charged workers, the management terminated their services.

Recently, the prelate had reportedly received commitments from the management accepting his proposal for a dialogue and possible amicable settlement with the workers.

Fr. Jose Dizon, spokesperson of Plunder Watch, said parishioners and religious groups brought sacks of rice and other food items, including cash, to support the three-day picket that is expected to end today. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Misamis' slippery inmate handcuffed

OROQUIETA CITY—A former soldier who once did a Houdini inside the Misamis Occidental jail here is being held extraordinarily because of fear by prison officials that he will try to escape again.

Larry Cuajao, alias Larry Gaskore and Larry Duhaylungsod, now wears handcuffs while in solitary detention at the prison facility.

Jerome Rosal, a jail guard, told the INQUIRER that the extraordinary measure against Cuajao was based on a directive issued by their superiors. He said this was apparently done to ensure that the stealthy Cuajao, who was found guilty of murder by a court here, could not escape.

A ranking prison official confirmed that they were taking extra precautions because of Cuajao's reputation of being slippery.

The official, who requested anonymity, said they could not risk losing their positions if the inmate, the fifth most wanted criminal in the province, escapes again.

Cuajao, a former member of the defunct Philippine Constabulary, escaped on March 30, 2000 while being escorted to an Ozamiz City court to face trial in a murder case.

After successfully engaging law enforcers in a "hide-and-seek" game for more than two years, the stocky Cuajao was finally arrested on July 20 in Barangay Karomatan, Kolambugan in Lanao del Norte by police intelligence agents led by Insp. Bembo Jumalon.

Aside from the murder charge, which he was convicted for, Cuajao faces illegal possession of prohibited drugs and frustrated murder charges.

*Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Police chief sacked for failing to act on destruction of Negros forest area

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Senior Insp. Romeo Rosales was relieved as police chief of Don Salvador Benedicto town pending investigation into his failure to act on the destruction of trees planted in 60 hectares of a forest reserve in the municipality.

Senior Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental police director, said Rosales did not make any report on the timber poaching activities in the town, which he believed to have been ongoing for several months.

He said it took the Task Force Ilahas, who are members of the 2nd Provincial Mobile Group stationed here, to act on the illegal logging activities that resulted in the discovery of about 400,000 board feet of hot timber.

Rosales also got the ire of Barias for releasing a Ford Fiera van loaded with nine sacks of charcoal, which was turned over to him for custody by Task Force Ilahas after it was seized on Friday.

Barias designated Insp. Nestor Tuadles as acting chief of the Don Salvador Benedicto police, effective Monday.

About 400,000 board feet of timber were discovered to have been cut within the forest reserve area of Barangay Bagong Silang, Don Salvador Benedicto.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said about 60 hectares of the 35,000 hectare-Northern Negros Forest Reserve Area had already been destroyed by unabated timber poaching activities.

The forest reserve straddles the towns of Don Salvador Benedicto, Calatrava and E.B. Magallona as well as the cities of Talisay, Silay and Cadiz.

The trees cut by poachers were endangered species of red and white *lauan*, *almaciga*, almond and *tanguile* trees. Some trees had trunks as big as drums while others were believed to be between 50 and 80 years old.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered the DENR Western Visayas office to look into the unabated cutting of trees in the forest reserve.

So far, eight persons have been arrested and charged with violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Code before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

They were Richaldy Arnon, Jovy Villaren, Ildy Cañete, Jeoffrey Fernando, Ruben Libre, Jovy Sotamayor, Romeo Bangeran and Danilo Sanopao, all residents of Calatrava.

Members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) arrested them on Friday after they were caught with 977 board feet of red lauan in Sitio Palala, Barangay Bagong Silang. The suspects were then turned over the Task Force Ilahas.

The DENR had tapped the help of the RPA-ABB because Don Salvador Benedicto was its stronghold.

The RPA-ABB members had also volunteered to help protect the environment as part of the confidence building measure for the peace talks with the government.

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**INQUIRER** *Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◆ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

# Sual power plant: Boon or bane?

## *Town divided over jobs, health risks*

**By Yolanda Fuertes**
*Sual, Pangasinan*

VISIBLE from most part of the Lingayen Gulf is the 200-meter tall chimney of the Sual coal-fired power plant. From afar, the chimney seems to reach out to heaven, like the Tower of Babel.

And like the Biblical structure, the power plant has created controversies among its management, environmentalists, town officials and residents.

On the one hand are those who sing praises to the plant because it generates jobs and produces much-needed power for the country.

On the other hand are those who call the plant an "ecological monster" about to bring havoc to the town and the Lingayen Gulf, posing health hazards to residents and releasing harmful carbon into the atmosphere.

The 1,200-megawatt plant is owned by Pangasinan Electric Corp., a subsidiary of Mirant Corp. of the United States.

The plant, the country's biggest coal-fired power plant, was put up under a build-operate-transfer scheme at a total cost of $1.2 billion. It sells power to the National Power Corp. under a 25-year purchased power agreement.

During the early days of the plant's construction in the 1990s, Sual officials and residents protested because of "possible effects on the environment in the future," said Sual Vice Mayor Alex Rigonan.

Rigonan, then a municipal councilor, said the opposition was short-lived. "It did not take long before the opposition died down," he said.

He said the protests stopped, most probably because of offers of employment and other considerations by Hopewell Corp., the plant's first owner. At that time, the country was besieged by an energy crisis, and the Sual plant was marketed as a solution to the crisis.

The plant was also a flagship project of then President Fidel V. Ramos, who hails from Pangasinan.

With the voices of dissent silenced, construction of the plant went on smoothly until 2001 when it began operating. For Sual residents, the plant was a gift of the gods as it gave them a source of income.

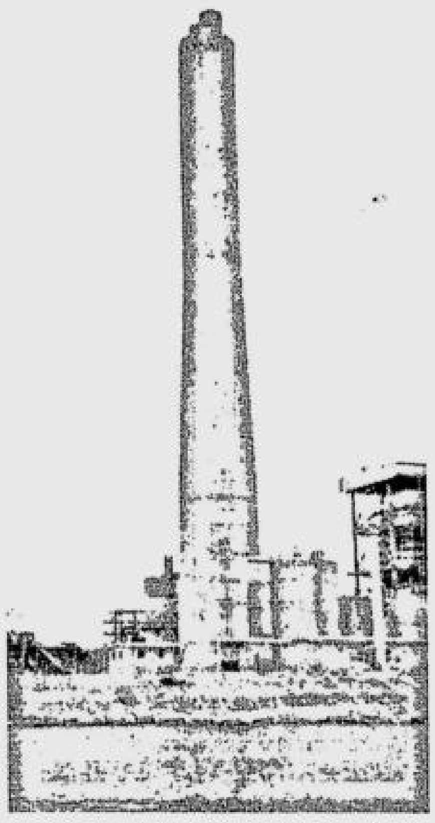
A local people's organization supplied the company's grocery and other items, and its janitorial services.

Mirant also established the Mirant Foundation that built schools, clinics and roads, such as the 8-km barangay road leading to the power plant.

### Ash storms

Everything seemed rosy and beautiful—until the summer of 2002.

Villagers were planting vegetables in their farms. The children, out from school, ran around as they enjoyed the summer breeze. Yet it was not to be their typical summer.



**SUAL power plant** RAY ZAMBRANO

The wind blew particles of ash from the plant's uncovered ash disposal ponds (where used coal is dumped) somewhere inside the plant yard. The "ash storms" caused respiratory diseases, skin rashes and eye irritation to residents of the villages of Pangascasan, where the plant is located, and nearby Kawayan and Capantolan.

A mother from Pangascasan said her two sons, aged 13 and 12, suffered from colds because of the dust and ash.

Even the plants and trees went through a bad summer. Virgilio Alonzo, 52, a farmer, said his vegetable plants wilted and his mango trees hardly bore fruits.

His sister, Teodora Liclican, a schoolteacher who lives in Kawayan, said her vegetable plants turned yellow, their leaves curled, and then died. But she was not sure if the power plant caused it.

Arsenio Raborar, a resident of Capantolan, claimed his cows and pigs were also affected by the ashes. "They did not grow fat despite all the feeds and vitamins I gave them," he told local officials.

The municipal council passed a resolution requesting the plant management "to initiate effective measures so that the ash pond would not be a hazard to the health of the residents, and to maintain sanitation and cleanliness of the area."

Rene Morante, Mirant's manager for environmental compliance, refuted the residents' allegations, saying the company conducts regular monitoring and testing. Mirant has also conducted a social survey on the conditions posed by the plant, he said.

What he remembered, Morante said, was that "an extraordinary hot day and the ash (in the ash landfill) became very dry so the ash was carried by the (wind)."

"What happened was an isolated case and not that widespread. It was immediately mitigated," he said.

The mitigating measure was covering the ash ponds with hay and sprinkling these with water to prevent ashes from being blown by the wind.

When the INQUIRER visited the ash disposal ponds in late July, these were almost empty and their plastic linings exposed.

"Strange," Red Constantino, energy campaigner of the environmental group Greenpeace, said. Four months earlier, all the linings were covered by ash wastes, he said. "Where did the ashes go?" he asked.

Rain most probably washed the ashes into the sedimentation pond and into the Logolog River and the Lingayen Gulf, carrying with them toxic metals like mercury, arsenic, lead and chromium, he said.

But Morante said the ashes were there when he inspected the site before the Greenpeace visit. He admitted, though, that during heavy rains, the sedimentation pond, the catch-basin for leachate and errant ashes, overflows.

What comes out of the pond is "already treated," Morante claimed.

Analysis of the ash samples taken from the plant disposal site revealed a significant level of toxic heavy metals. The Greenpeace Research Laboratories in the United Kingdom analyzed the samples.

A marine biologist from Sual, who asked not to be named, said that since the ashes were heavy metals, mercury, arsenic, lead and chromium settled in the muddy bottom of the coastal waters.

"Bottom dweller" creatures like crustaceans and mollusks eat the nutrient-rich, but "fortified" by toxic metals, sediments. They are eaten by fish, which, in turn, are eaten by humans.

"Thus the toxic metals end up (being ingested by) humans," the marine biologist said.

The source said mercury is a neurotoxin so deadly that it only takes 1/70th of a teaspoon to contaminate a 10.11-hectare lake. After contamination, fish caught in that lake are considered unfit for human consumption.

Constantino said there was no safe standard level for the heavy metals, especially mercury, which accumulate in the body, the effects of which can be seen only after many years of slowly ingesting them.

When absorbed by fish, mercury is converted into more toxic methylmercury, meaning it progressively accumulates into the body as it goes up the food chain.

Morante, however, debunked this, saying methylmercury is a product of a mechanical process: "You can't have a byproduct of methylmercury from the (power plant's) process itself," he said.

# 'White Lady' guards mine tunnels

**By Delmar Cariño**
*Mankayan, Benguet*

**DAYTOY TI AMIANAN**

A GODDESS is believed to be guarding the ore body that gives Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. its vast gold find in Mankayan, Benguet.

In fact, the "White Lady" is of the jealous type, compelling mine officials to officially ban women from entering the underground tunnels to avoid being hit by bad luck.

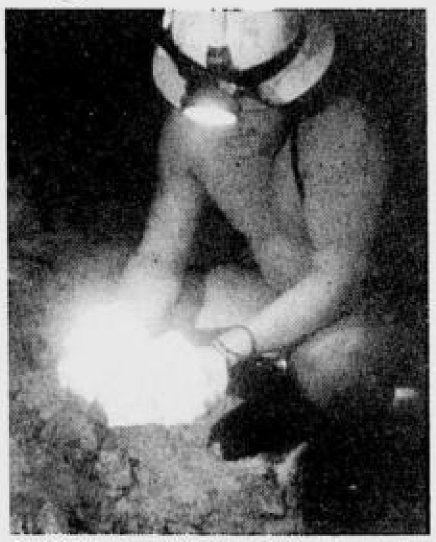
Lately, the company is agog over the discovery of a new copper-gold vein that promises an extended mine life of 20 years and more than P9 billion in revenues.

But company officials refuse to mix fact with fiction.

While admitting the myth of the "White Lady," they said the new copper-gold deposit had nothing to do with the myth that has been passed from generation to generation of miners from the area.

The company is ecstatic over its latest find—Victoria II which boasts of 1.3 million ounces of gold deposits and the Far Southeast extension that is expected to yield 100 million pounds of copper.

A document furnished the INQUIRER by the company's Makati City office said the new deposits "were traced by diamond drilling and development drives to a separate source of mineralized veins."



**BENGUET gold miner** DELMAR CARINO

Meanwhile, the Wright Engineers and Lynx-JS Redpathand, a firm expert in detecting copper reserves, found the copper deposits following an extensive study.

"The newly found reserves were discovered by scientific means," Florendo Fajilan, company personnel manager, told the INQUIRER. "The White Lady may not have something to do with it."

But is there really a "White Lady?"

"We admit the diverse culture and belief of our employees who belong to the indigenous cultural communities. We also hold *canao* (a thanksgiving feast) to celebrate the success of our operations. The White Lady is one story we have officially adopted," he said.

Fajilan admitted that the story of the "White Lady" had strongly influenced the company into adopting a policy disallowing women from entering the mines.

He cited two incidents. In the late 1970s, he said members of a prominent Manila family visited the mines and entered the tunnels together with friends connected with the National Basketball Association. In the group were several women.

A week later, Fajilan said, a freak accident happened inside the mines, killing a number of miners equal to the number of women who earlier joined the visiting group.

Company president Artemio Disini, then LCMC resident manager, issued a memorandum banning women from the mines, Fajilan said. The memorandum still exists today.

In April 1993, the policy slipped the mind of an engineer who allowed a relative, together with three women, to use the underground shaft. Fajilan recalled that after the visit, three miners died in May, June and July in separate accidents while working inside the tunnels.

The engineer, who allowed the women to go inside the mines, was suspended. Since then, the company has implemented the "no-woman entry" rule strictly, Fajilan said.

"Call it coincidence but the miners attributed the deaths to the White Lady who, they believed, got jealous of the women's visit," Fajilan said.

He said though that there is no scientific basis to validate the theory. But he admitted that the "White Lady" is there to remain.

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Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
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August 12, 2002

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
**NO. 2002-18**

SUBJECT : **Declaring An Emergency Situation in the Diwalwal Gold Rush Area and Providing for Interim Guidelines to Address the Critical Environmental and Social Consequences Therein**

**WHEREAS,** Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and advance the right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS,** Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that all natural resources are owned by the State, that the exploration, development and utilization thereof shall be under its full control and supervision, and that the State may directly undertake such activities;

**WHEREAS,** Section 4 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, provides that the mineral resources are owned by the State, that the exploration, development and utilization and processing thereof shall be under its full control and supervision and that it may directly undertake such activities or it may enter into mineral agreements with contractors;

**WHEREAS,** Section 8 of R.A. No. 7942 also provides that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall be the primary agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the State's mineral resources including those in reservations, watershed areas and lands of the public domain and that the DENR Secretary shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the intent and provisions of the said Act;

**WHEREAS,** Executive Order (E.O.) No. 192 mandates that the DENR shall be the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos;

**WHEREAS,** the authority over small-scale mining and enforcement of certain environmental laws by the Provincial Government concerned are subject to the supervision, control and review of the DENR Secretary pursuant to the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991;

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to E.O. No. 786 dated March 19, 1982, the Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) as a government corporation and corporate arm of the DENR is mandated to help promote the development of the country's natural resources;

**WHEREAS,** the Supreme Court has ruled in G.R. No. 135190 issued on April 3, 2002 that the State may not be precluded from considering a direct takeover of the mines if it is the only plausible remedy in sight to the gnawing complexities generated by the gold rush;

**WHEREAS,** Proclamation No. 2146, dated December 14, 1981, provides that mining being a resource extractive industry is an environmentally critical project;

**WHEREAS,** the Diwalwal gold rush area in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province has been the site of crude and semi-mechanized to mechanized types of mining operations since 1983, involving thousands of miners, local entrepreneurs and service providers;

**WHEREAS,** comprehensive studies on the extent of pollution and siltation resulting from the Diwalwal mining operations undertaken by the DENR, the United Nations Industrial and Development Organization (UNIDO), and other entities have confirmed the elevated levels of mercury and serious siltation incidents in the area, indicating an emergency situation that needs immediate intervention by Government;

**WHEREAS,** the above situation has been aggravated by peace and order problems, notably the recent killing of a judge in Compostela Valley, the alleged burning of tires and toxic chemicals in the underground working areas causing the suffocation of forty-four (44) miners and one (1) fatality; blockade of vital Bincungan Bridge in Davao del Norte and Tagmanok Bridge in Compostela Valley; and fatal ambuscades which now calls for immediate positive action by Government;

**WHEREAS,** the current situation requires an urgent need to address the issues on environmental degradation, social dislocation, peace-and-order, and occupational health and safety hazards facing the Diwalwal mining operations, including the need for an appropriate site and engineered waste and tailings disposal system;

**WHEREAS,** mining and mineral processing operations are matters impressed with public interest and that rationalized gold mining operations in Diwalwal would ensure the sustained livelihood of the thousands of miners, local entrepreneurs and service providers therein and optimize the benefits to be derived from the mineral wealth in accordance with the sustainable development strategy of the Government;

**WHEREAS,** the rationalization of the Diwalwal gold mining operations should be pursued in line with sustainable development and poverty alleviation strategies of the Government;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** foregoing premises considered, the following are hereby promulgated:

**Section 1.** ***Declaration of Emergency.*** In view of the issues on environmental pollution, social dislocation, health and safety hazards, and deteriorating peace and order situation, an emergency situation is hereby declared in the Diwalwal gold-rush area.

**Section 2.** ***Objectives.*** In consonance with existing laws, and to immediately address the critical government and social dimensions of the Diwalwal gold-rush area, the following objectives are hereby set-forth;

a. Provide for immediate measures to mitigate the critical environmental and social conditions in the Diwalwal gold-rush area;
b. Address the deteriorating peace-and-order situation in the area;
c. Address the needs of the destitute small miners and the demands of farmers in the area, taking into consideration their sustained livelihoods, health and safety; and
d. Establish a management system for environmental protection and resource utilization.

**Section 3.** ***Stoppage of Mining and Mineral Processing Operations.*** In view of the critical environmental and social conditions now prevailing, a stoppage of mining and mineral processing activities of major operators in the Diwalwal gold rush area is hereby ordered until such time that all the environmental and permitting requirements are complied with. To implement the said stoppage, the DENR shall:

a. Seek the assistance of concerned local government units and other government agencies in stopping large mining and mineral processing activities, and in providing security of the area and maintenance of peace and order;
b. In coordination with the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO), Philippine National Police (PNP), strictly regulate and control the issuance of licenses for the purchase, disposition and use of explosives and their accessories; and
c. Issue the necessary deputation orders to the PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other concerned entities to police all mining activities.

**Section 4.** ***Addressing the Environmental Problems.*** To immediately address the siltation, pollution and other environmental problems, the DENR shall undertake the following actions:

a. Make available the Mabatas area as feasible sites for the relocation of mineral processing plants and for common tailings disposal system;
b. Undertake the planning, identification, construction and operation of an engineered tailings dam;
c. Initiate and undertake the orderly relocation of mineral processing plants to the Mabatas area or any other government-designed areas;
d. Through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), strictly regulate the use of Mercury, Cyanide and other chemicals or substances as provided for under R.A. No. 6969;
e. Coordinate with the Department of Health (DOH) in the conduct of health monitoring and assessment activities, management or treatment of health cases, pursuit of health education campaigns and environmental sanitation activities, for the residents in the area;
f. Through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the EMB, in coordination with the concerned local government units, shall conduct an assessment of the nature and extent of the environmental problems in the area;
g. In coordination with the local government units of the affected areas, undertake the necessary close monitoring of the mining operations, and formulate long-term plans and programs to address the environmental problems in the area; and
h. Together with the NRDC, and in coordination with the concerned local government units, shall initiate environmental clean-up of the Diwalwal mining area and the Naboc River, and shall establish an Environmental User's Fee mechanism under DAO No. 2002-16 and a Peoples Small-Scale Mining Protection Fund under R.A. No. 7076.

**Section 5.** ***Role of the Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC).*** In the interim, the DENR through the NRDC, shall undertake the development and utilization activities in the area, such as, but not limited to;

a. The setting up of professionally competent and qualified technical groups, with technical assistance of MGB, to undertake the necessary planning, management and operationalization of various mining-related activities in the Diwalwal area;
b. The preparation and initial construction and operations of the Mabatas mill tailings disposal facility;
c. Implementation of a mine management plan to generate cash flow for the activities in Mabatas disposal system and to address issues on environmental, social and sustainable livelihood of subsistence mine workers;
d. Development and establishment of a purchasing and marketing mechanism and facilities to ensure that all the gold produced from the Diwalwal area shall be sold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

**Section 6.** ***Provision of Technical Assistance.*** In order to address the rational development of the Diwalwal gold deposit, the following shall be undertaken:

a. The DENR shall organize and operationalize a full-time Technical Working Group headed by the MGB, to provide all necessary assistance in the rationalization of the Diwalwal mining operations;
b. The MGB shall conduct geodetic and geological surveys for the delineation of mineralized zones and mining areas;
c. The MGB, in support to NRDC shall undertake survey of the underground mine workings to identify and delineate danger zones;
d. The EMB shall develop a scheme of programmatic or unified Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) to fast track the necessary evaluation and approval of required ECCs; and
e. The DENR shall provide training on mine safety, first aid, and environmental protection measures to small-scale miners and mineral processors.

**Section 7.** ***Collection of Taxes, Fees and Royalties.*** To ensure that the taxes, fees and royalties due from the utilization of mineral resources will be properly and adequately collected, the DENR shall undertake the following:

a. In coordination with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the concerned Local Government Units, shall develop and set up the necessary collection mechanisms; and
b. In recognition of possible vested rights in the area, the DENR shall deposit in escrow in a government bank, appropriate royalties for rightful indigenous peoples and mining tenement claimants.

**Section 8.** ***Separability Clause.*** If any clause, sentence, section or provision of these guidelines is held or declared to be unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the remaining parts thereof shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 9.** ***Effectivity.*** These guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication [illegible] a newspaper of general circulation.

**HEHERSON T. ALVA[illegible]**
*Secretary*

[illegible] 14, 2002 -- Inquirer

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# ‘Milenyo’ kills 13; MMDA washes hands of floods

From page A1

turned over any flood control equipment or personnel.

“Nothing has been transferred yet. There’s nothing we can do as of now,” he said.

Milenyo, carrying heavy rains and winds of up to 55 kph, yesterday flooded major thoroughfares in Metro Manila and prompted the suspension of classes in all schools.

Authorities dispatched trucks to ferry thousands of stranded commuters. Many buses and jeepneys refused to ply their routes as several vehicles were abandoned in waist-deep water around the capital.

Strong winds snapped power cables that electrocuted six people in Binagonan, Rizal.

A waterspout—a whirling column of spray-filled air that usually occurs in tropical areas—triggered a landslide in Negros Oriental, killing at least seven people. Four others, including two children, are missing.

The Coast Guard reported that at least three ships sank, but added that all the passengers and crewmembers had been rescued.

Weather officials hoisted Storm Signal No. 1, the lowest alert, in Metro Manila and 29 provinces in Luzon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geographical and Astronomical Services Administration spotted Milenyo in the vicinity of Lamon Bay in Quezon province. The storm was moving northwest toward Central Luzon.

Pagasa said the storm would be over the South China Sea by Wednesday morning.

## Electrocuted

SPO2 Pastor Maramag, information officer of the Rizal police, said Ramon Navarro, 61, tried to save his neighbor Ligaya Enopia, 32, and her 2-year-old daughter Mary Jane who were swept away by rampaging floodwaters after the Biliran dike in Binagonan burst.

Maramag said a live wire electrocuted the trio. Neighbors later recovered their bodies.

Maramag said three members of the Pacheco family—Marilyn, Adelina and Kristina—were also electrocuted inside their flooded house.

Water levels in parts of Antipolo City and the towns of Cainta, Taytay, Baras and Teresa reached as high as 3 meters. The towns are surrounded by mountains that had long been denuded by loggers.

## Mudslide

Abdon Aga and his wife Viviana Aga lost six of their children when flashfloods swept away their house on a riverbank in Barangay Nagbalaye, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental.

The bodies of their four children—Michael, 5, Delson, 6, Carlito, 7, and Jobert, 8—have been recovered. But the bodies of their two other children—Donna, 4 and Jocelyn, one—are still missing.

**BRIDGING** the gap in Roxas District, Quezon City, thanks to helping hands. DENNIS SABANGAN

In Barangay Nagbinlod, a waterspout struck, throwing Rene Jimenez and his children Irene, 12 and Ryan, 13, into the river. Only Irene’s body has been recovered.

Tarcisia Lastimoso, a resident of Barangay Alangilan and Jimboy Gargoles, 8, of Barangay Nagbalaye, were also killed.

In Siaton town, floods destroyed 46 houses and left 300 people homeless. The families have been evacuated to the town’s coliseum.

In neighboring Negros Occidental, 1,764 families have also been evacuated after heavy rains flooded the cities of Sipalay and Kabankalan as well as the towns of Ilog, Isabela, Candoni, Hinigaran, Pulupandan, Pontevedra and Binalbagan.

## 3 ships sink

In Leyte, 113 passengers of MV April Rose were rescued in the waters off Baybay town after the interisland passenger vessel ran aground. No one casualties were reported.

The Coast Guard said nine people were rescued when the tugboat Marinero sank after encountering engine trouble in stormy waters off Antique province on Monday.

All crewmembers were also reported safe after another tugboat, Ruby, ran aground in rough seas off Camiguin island.

All boat trips to the island province of Catanduanes were suspended late Monday and early Tuesday.

Authorities said four minor landslides in the Visayas also washed out roads and bridges.

## Metro Manila

Many parts of Metro Manila were submerged in water, with some areas as deep as 3 meters, making the roads impassable to all types of vehicles.

MMDA Chair Fernando said he had asked DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong to fast track the transfer of at least the key flood-control personnel so the MMDA could carry out its new responsibility.

Myrna Dumol of the MMDA said that since early yesterday morning, the agency’s engineering division had been directed to deploy pumping machines in heavily flooded areas. ***Reports from Alex V. Pal, Carla P. Gomez, Vicente S. Labro, Romy G. Amarado and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Gerald G. Lacuarta, Nelson Flores, Martin P. Marfil, Leila B. Salavaria, Jerome Aning, and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila***

# Disgusted, Roco quits Cabinet

From page A1

“There is no place in a democracy for humiliating people as a policy instrument. We must empower people—then the nation shall be strong,” Roco said.

But the President refused to accept Roco’s resignation and would ask him today to reconsider. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President would meet with Roco today.

“The President will meet with Secretary Roco at the earliest possible time where it is hoped that matters would be threshed out,” Bunye said.

Roco hinted at making a strong comeback in 2004, to “serve the Filipino people.”

“In closing, let me say thank you for the opportunity of serving the Filipino people. I pray they will bless me again someday. For now, God bless the Philippines!” Roco said in his resignation letter.

Roco has consistently obtained the highest approval ratings among Cabinet members in past surveys. Results of a nationwide survey conducted by Ibon Foundation showed that Roco would win the presidency if elections were held last month, ahead of former President Joseph Estrada and Ms Macapagal.

## Out of proportion

In his statement, Bunye said the President’s “ministerial act” of referring the graft complaint against Roco to the PAGC “has been blown out of proportion as to create the false impression that Secretary Roco is being eased out.”

“This impression has no basis in truth and in fact,” Bunye said.

He said that the referral of the complaint was done “as a matter of routine” in the same manner that charges against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit were earlier referred to the PCAGC.

In Resolution No. 3 received by the Office of the President on July 22, 2002, a group of DepEd employees cited Roco’s alleged “dictatorial” management style, his alleged corrupt activities and extravagant practices in running the department.

Among his allegedly improper actions were his having allowed a government driver assigned to him to be used by his wife; his grave abuse of discretion in suspending officials at DepEd; not depositing with the national treasury service fees covering the period January to June 2002 worth P15 million to P16 million a month; his habit of cursing and hurling “vindictive words” and insults; his explosive temper; and the tax exemption granted to the Sto. Tomas University Hospital that resulted in the resignation of Education Undersecretary Jaime Jacob.

## Exemplary service

Bunye said the President and the Cabinet recognized Roco’s “dedication and exemplary service.”

Roco said that since Feb. 14, 2001, he had served in the Cabinet with “dedication and without fanfare.”

“As a result, teachers’ welfare was enhanced and free public education for more than 17 million children, guaranteed. Textbooks were bought cheaper and procurement of equipment and materials has been cited by local and international agencies as a model,” the first part of Roco’s resignation letter read.

He said that he had done much at the education department, including the implementation of the controversial Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), which the President, “teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents, regional directors and many in the DepEd central office” had supported.

Roco said that the public recognized the work he did at DepEd so that since October 2001 his department had been “considered the best performing government agency in survey after survey.”

“It came as a surprise then to hear the Anti-Graft Commissioner Dario Rama, announce over radio and TV that upon your instructions on Aug. 1, 2002, he will investigate me over baseless charges, ignored even by your Excellency or the Executive Secretary, to ask me to explain as a member of your official family,” Roco wrote in his resignation letter.

## Union surprised

The officers of the DepEd Central Office employees’ union shouted in joy as they heard the news that Roco had resigned. “We did not expect this to happen. We were very surprised,” said Atty. Domingo Alidon, union president.

There was a “victory rally” by some 300 employees at the DepEd central office of the union members who had been complaining about Roco and his management style since last year. “This is like Edsa II,” Alidon said.

There was singing and dancing in DepEd as the employees “rejoiced” with Roco’s resignation.

At least 300 DepEd employees had signed a petition calling for Roco’s immediate ouster, which was sent to the President early July.

The petition said that the “working relationship between the employees, officials and teachers with the DepEd management is not anymore harmonious and conducive to productive work due to the employees’ loss of trust and confidence in the management of Roco, his undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, consultants and staff.”

“The present situation is actually beyond repair even if Roco tries to reform himself (since) the damage done to the DepEd employees, some directors and officials, including some teachers and students is so grave/serious which is enough grounds to call for the resignation/ouster of Secretary Roco as DepEd Secretary,” the petition read.

Alidon called on Ms Macapagal to immediately “accept Roco’s resignation.” He appealed to the President to appoint a “good academician” to the vacant DepEd post. “We don’t want another politician who will just use the department,” Alidon said.

But there were educators who expressed a sense of loss with Roco’s resignation.

Eleazardo Kasilag, president of the Federation of Associations of Private School Administrators, said that “Roco may be out now but in 2004, he is in.”

“Malacañang’s sword hanging all along dropped over Roco’s head. This is indeed expected as Roco is outsmarting everyone in the Cabinet and GMA got terribly threatened. But you cannot put a good man down,” Kasilag said in a statement.

“I know this is orchestrated. Malacañang has stirred the hornet’s nest and somebody there has just sung her swan song,” he said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

# ‘A casualty of his own popularity’

From page A1

members of Congress said the resignation was a “painful blow” to the administration because Roco was one of the best performing members of the Cabinet.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra likened Roco to the Greek mythological character Icarus who soared high but got burned by the sun.

“He is a casualty of his high popularity, proving that ranking high in surveys has its downside,” said the House assistant minority leader.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the filing of the graft charge against Roco was Malacañang’s way of eliminating a potential rival to Ms Macapagal from within in 2004.

“One year ago I said that there could never be two presidential aspirants from the government of Ms Macapagal and this meant Ms Macapagal and Raul (Roco). Events proved my statement right,” Angara said.

Batanes Rep. Florencio “Butch” Abad, president of the Liberal Party, one of the parties belonging to the ruling coalition, has a similar observation.

Abad said the emergence of Roco as the strongest presidential candidate in 2004 had caused “uneasiness” between him and Ms Macapagal.

“The President will not feel too secure with her strongest opponent working right in her Cabinet,” Abad said.

## Hatchet job

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, Roco’s partymate in Aksyon Demokratiko, said the graft case filed against Roco was a “successful hatchet job by shadowy characters” in Malacañang.

But Sen. Manny Villar insisted that the President may not have a hand in the filing of charges with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) against Roco. He pointed to some “overeager” allies of the President who may have panicked after seeing Roco’s strong showing in the polls.

Both Villar and Sen. Ralph Recto urged Roco to reconsider his decision for the sake of the youth who believe in the education secretary.

“For the sake of our students, don’t drop out,” Recto told Roco. “Prove your detractors wrong. Don’t give them the pleasure of seeing you bow out of office.”

Recto said the procurement and curriculum reforms Roco had instituted were no mean feat. He said Roco battled the textile lobby when he chose to give cash rather than cloth to teachers for their uniforms.

Roco also stopped the automatic salary deduction of payments to private lenders and strengthened public elementary and secondary school curriculum.

Recto said it would be the “height of irony if its best performing member will be the first to leave the Cabinet.”

“Now is the time for Roco to practice what he preaches. That those in public service should not be members of the Balat Sibuyas Club,” he said.

Sen. Noli de Castro and Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon praised Roco for his *delicadeza* (sense of decency) in leaving the Cabinet so he could face the charges against him squarely.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda considered the charge against Roco “a little bit flimsy and could be politically motivated.”

Legarda said that while Malacañang had denied endorsing the filing of the graft charge, she said Roco could not have resigned without basis.

“Whatever it is, we wish Roco the best in his endeavors. He was a colleague,” she said. “He continues to have our admiration and respect.”

Legarda said Roco could be a third force in Philippine politics, considering his strong following among the youth.

She acknowledged that Roco was a strong contender for the presidency in 2004.

## Votes away from GMA

“It will be a big loss on the part of the President because Roco is not going to the opposition. He will be taking votes from the administration and the loser here will be the administration,” Abad said.

Abad said the resignation “further creates the perception that the administration house is not in order.”

“If the administration is smart, it should try to bring him back because if the President is able to convince him to be her running mate, they will be a very potent combination,” he said.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said Roco’s resignation was a sad event because the administration had been losing the most competent Cabinet members like Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Padilla shared the view that the investigation being conducted by the PAGC stemmed from Roco’s strong showing in the surveys.

“This is a bad signal that if you are a threat to the President’s reelection, you will become a victim (of a demolition job),” Padilla said.

## Selective

Padilla scored Malacañang for being selective in having Roco investigated as other Cabinet members had also been using their positions to project their image. He mentioned Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

One charge against Roco was the use of public funds for posters bearing his picture that were distributed to schools around the country.

Padilla said the President herself had posters in all government offices, schools and other places, which could be used to her advantage in 2004. “There seems to be a double standard here,” he said.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. and Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, both of Lakas, defended the President.

“As a public servant, this is part of the risks involved. Filing the case against him does not mean loss of confidence,” Pichay said.

Pichay said the case showed the President was serious in fighting graft and corruption. “What the President did was merely to give Roco a forum to answer the charges against him and clear his name,” he said.

Reyes said the President should “not be faulted for doing her job.”

“There was a complaint that was addressed to her so she referred the matter to an appropriate independent body. Although she did not confer with Secretary Roco beforehand, the President did not condemn him,” Reyes said.

Reyes said Roco was a very good education secretary who made innovative changes, most notably in the curriculum to improve the quality of education.

“It is unfortunate that he resigned because he will not see the fruits of his work. I also regret he resigned because I am confident that when the investigation is finished, his name will be cleared,” Reyes said.

# *School execs shocked over Roco resignation*

SCHOOL officials from Northern Luzon were shocked and upset over the resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco.

In Dagupan City, Division Schools Superintendent Erlinda Nava said Roco was a “great loss” to the department because his policies were good and his programs had “good direction.”

She described the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) as Roco’s landmark program.

Under the BEC, subjects are clustered with thematic thrusts to make learning more integral, holistic and practical.

Nava said Roco had good rapport with Department of Education’s officials, teachers, employees and even the students.

In Baguio City, acting education regional director Norma Sanchez said she was rallying teachers behind Roco because “we hope he’ll be the next president.”

“We were really surprised about our secretary’s resignation because it was rather drastic and untimely,” Sanchez said.

“But the whole Dep-Ed Cordillera still considers (Roco) the Father of the Dep-Ed because of the reforms he has implemented, the anomalies (within the department) he has exposed, and the benefits and welfare for teachers he has worked for,” she said.

In San Fernando City, Dr. Rowena Casuga, assistant schools division superintendent, said it hurt him to see Roco go considering that he had done a lot for the education department.

Casuga said Roco “is a very principled man (to have committed graft and unethical practices).”

“The BEC, which he initiated, is showing good promise in improving secondary education in the country,” she said.

Regional Director Antonio del Rosario of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority said Roco was doing a “great job” as education secretary.

Del Rosario, who has been in the service for at least 30 years, said “maybe this time, President Macapagal-Arroyo should ask Roco to stay (as secretary of education).”

“Roco is one of only a few good men in the administration,” he said.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers in Central Luzon, however, did not welcome Roco’s resignation.

“Roco has to face the cases filed against him. His resignation should not lead to a whitewash. We want him out but he should not go scot-free,” said Fabian Hallig, ACT-CL spokesperson. ***Reports from Yolanda Fuertes, Maurice Malanes and Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau. and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

# Gambling values real termites, says bishop

From page A1

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz

implemented at once," Legarda told Senate reporters.

Opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara said the presence of slot machines in shopping malls and other public places constituted "pure gambling."

In Cebu City, Interior Secretary Jose Lina also expressed his opposition to the slot machine expansion plan. But he said he believed Pagcor would listen to the sentiments of the community. "I will convey the message of the local officials to the President, then we will discuss it in the Cabinet," he said.

In the House, minority congressmen said they would file today a resolution urging the President to stop the "anomalous and immoral nationwide expansion" of Pagcor. The resolution was to have been filed yesterday but session was suspended because of the rains.

## Cebu, Senate resistance

In Cebu City, Mayor Tomas Osmeña led other city leaders in expressing opposition to the planned setup of two slot machine arcades in the area. Jose Ng, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said that while the operation of these arcades was legal, the moral issue should prevail.

Pagcor contributes P3 million monthly to the city government, but Osmeña said he was willing to take the risk of losing the "Pagcor funds."

"Our integrity and principles are not for sale," he told reporters during his regular news conference on Monday.

At the Senate, Legarda said the issue was one of priority. "I think what we must do is to find out how we can alleviate poverty or improve education, not provide entertainment in the form of slot machines to the public and to the youth of the country," she said.

Legarda said the government was sending a wrong signal and the wrong values when it allowed slot machines to be operated outside of the casinos.

"Putting slot machines does not address the basic issues in our society. It will just spawn bigger problems and will not solve the problem of poverty and education," she added.

Angara said Pagcor's approval of contracts with private parties to install slot machines in shopping malls, LRT stations, hotels and other non-casino outlets reflected the moral decay and confusion of the Macapagal administration.

"To compound the political drift and the lack of leadership, now we have this looming crisis in morality," he said.

## Bishop's move

Cruz, an outspoken advocate against all forms of gambling, said the "promised revenues and earnings for the government (of the slot machine plan), surely, would not compensate for (their) moral and social effects."

Cruz expressed alarm that the plan came at a time when the Estrada administration's association with the "culture of gambling (is) still fresh in our minds."

He predicted that gambling, "cleverly disguised as a legal and attractive entertainment or pastime," was bound to thrive in the streets, especially among the poor.

The archbishop said the social costs of legal and illegal gambling were the same as corruption of public officials, drug trafficking and other problems that the Macapagal administration has vowed to weed out.

"We therefore strongly urge President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to stay true to her mandate and put a stop to this plan," he said. "It is extremely disheartening if the President installed by Edsa II, a movement generated by an outcry against gambling and immorality, would be the very person who would promote it, even if considered legal."

Cruz also appealed "on bended knees" to Filipinos to make a clear stand against the Pagcor proposal.

"Gambling in form and in essence is stealing. Let us not waste our hard-earned money on it. Losing is expected in gambling while winning is essentially stealing the hard-earned money of others," he said.

## Pagcor City

Padilla's resolution criticized Pagcor's plan to operate more slot machines in the country as well as build a billion-peso "Entertainment City"—also known as Pagcor City—in a 250-hectare reclaimed area off Roxas Boulevard, known as the PEA-Amari property.

Padilla said yesterday he believed many of his colleagues will support the resolution which aims to express the "sense of the House" on the controversial proposed programs of Pagcor.

Padilla and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico were the first to sign the resolution, which among other things alleged that Pagcor is being led by the so-called Rotary Mafia and Bigkis Pinoy, "a clique closely identified with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to convert the country as the gambling capital of Asia."

The resolution noted the INQUIRER's I-Team report over the weekend which detailed Pagcor's bid to flood the country with slot machines and exposed the politically motivated restructuring of the gaming firm—the government's third largest revenue earner.

The resolution also alleged that under Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, the corporation "secretly planned" the Entertainment City, and that the President approved the theme park project, said to rake in investments amounting to many billions from private entities "still undisclosed this time."

The anti-gambling resolution called for an "open transparent public hearing" of Pagcor's franchise and urged that all sectors, including the religious sector, be allowed to attend it.

In the Senate, new finance committee chair Sen. Manny Villar said while slot machines were regulated, these should not be open to the public. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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# Yes to slot machines; no to 'jueteng'

From page A1

"For as long as the operation is within the scope of Pagcor's franchise from Congress, Malacañang would not touch it," he said.

In the House, the author of the bill seeking the extension of Pagcor's franchise to 50 years defended the gaming firm's expansion programs. Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles also dismissed Angara's claim, and urged his colleagues not to kill the proverbial golden goose laying much-needed golden eggs.

Rene Figueroa, Pagcor deputy chief of staff, stressed that the government corporation would not operate slot machine arcades in areas where local officials were against it.

## Important distinction

Bunye said it was important to distinguish between legalized and illegal gambling.

"We have to make a distinction," he said in an interview over radio station dzRH.

He said the Palace's only concern was if Pagcor has enough safeguards in place to prevent minors from playing the slot machines.

Nograles explained Pagcor's plan to build an entertainment theme part as a needed attempt to "keep up with the times."

He said only 30 percent of the proposed theme park in a reclaimed area off Roxas Boulevard was allocated for gambling. The remaining 70 percent would be for entertainment: shows, malls, theme park, and movies.

This, he said, was in keeping with the trend of corporations like Pagcor "transforming (themselves) from gaming to family entertainment."

He said his bill seeks the extension of the Pagcor franchise because he was informed that investors were wary of entering the picture with Pagcor's existing franchise ending in 2008.

But because of the opposition to the Pagcor programs,

Nograles said he was considering amending the bill by providing that the so-called Entertainment City be built within four years.

He reminded his colleagues that Pagcor was able to collect more revenues and thus "saved" the country. He likened the criticism against Pagcor as "killing the goose laying the golden eggs."

## Pagcor side

The country's gaming monopoly issued another press statement yesterday, saying a "gambling republic" was farthest from its mind when it launched its "modest and reasonable program" to put up additional slot machine arcades. Figueroa said Pagcor was expanding its operations following President Macapagal's call to build a "strong Republic" by generating more funds to support vital government projects, especially those that would benefit the poor.

Figueroa also rebutted Sen. Edgardo Angara's accusations that the gaming giant was bringing the slot machines "literally into the streets."

He noted that "there are only three slot machine arcades now operating in the country. We only have 4,700 slot machines all over the country, and that does not make a gambling republic. Comparatively, the Philippines not only lags behind in technology but also in machine population. Australia has 200,000 slot machines, the United States close to 600,000. Italy and Spain, both Catholic countries, have a slot machine population of 351,400 and 228,000 respectively. Japan earns $150 billion annually from its 4.7 million pachinko machines."

"Moreover, only those who are eligible are allowed to play in our establishments. We impose the strictest criteria in terms of screening of our players at the entry level," he added.

In an interview with Cebu City-based radio station dyLA, Figueroa said Pagcor would not insist on setting up arcades in areas where they were not welcome. "If after all the explanations *ay ayaw kami sa lugar na iyon* (they still don't like us), we will consider relocating."

"Although our Charter allows us to put up any of these arcades anywhere, we are sensitive to the sentiments of the community," he added.

But Figueroa said bigger revenues was not Pagcor's aim.

He said Pagcor just wanted to help the social projects initiated by different government agencies and sectors.

"*Kung hindi kami naka-expand, iyong mga umaasa for* funding for social projects *ay hindi namin mapopondohan, hindi makapagtuloy at makapagsuporta* sa endeavors natin aside sa monthly contribution natin sa mga local government units," he said. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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# SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

## SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

**POOL:** World Professional Pool Championships 2002, Day 7, 2nd Session at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
**GOLF:** PGA Buick Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
**TENNIS:** Western and Southern Financial Masters (Cincinnati), Highlights at 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

**SIX DIGIT**
7 5 9 4 5 1
(in exact order)

**LOTTO 6/42**
28 38 7 16 15 17
Luzon

**SUERTRES** 5 5 4

13 11 5 42 14 33
Vis / Min

# Taulava, Menk head RP cage squad

## Uichico's possible lineup for Asian Games

By June Navarro

**IF we go by statistics, Asi Taulava and Eric Menk are shoo-in members of the RP basketball team to the Asian Games next month.**

Head coach Jong Uichico's lineup would also include Danny Seigle, Olsen Racela, Kenneth Duremdes, Dennis Espino, Dondon Hontiveros, Rudy Hatfield, Jeffrey Cariaso, Danny Ildefonso, Mick Pennisi and Noy Castillo.

Judging from the way Uichico rotated his men the past seven months, D. Seigle (32 minutes), Racela (31 mins.), Taulava (27 mins.), Cariaso (22) and Menk (21) will form the starting five of the national squad.

But in case Seigle's groin injury fails to recuperate in time for the quadrennial meet on Sept. 29-Oct. 14, Uichico wouldn't think twice of fielding Hontiveros or Duremdes in the San Miguel swingman's place.

Playmaker Boyet Fernandez and Andy Seigle of Purefoods and Shell's Chris Jackson can still join the Asian Games sojourn but only as alternates.

Others who tried out for the national team were Sta. Lucia's Marlou Aquino, Alaska' Ali Peek and EJ Feihl, Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Coca-Cola's Johnny Abarrientos and Edward Juinio, Talk N Text's Patrick Fran and Don Camaso, FedEx's Renren Ritualo and Shell's Chris Calaguio.

TAULAVA

MENK

HATFIELD

SEIGLE

CASTILLO

ESPINO

CARIASO

DUREMDES

RACELA

ILDEFONSO

**ANNA'S SMILE**
Anna Kournikova of Russia smiles at fans after beating Saori Obata of Japan in the first round of the Rogers AT&T Cup in Montreal, Canada, on Monday. Kournikova scored a 6-3, 6-1 victory. AP

# HK victory a vindication, says Graham

By Dennis U. Eroa

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary-general Graham Lim yesterday said he isn't going to be drawn into a word war with his critics but described the country's victory in the Hong Kong Super League as "vindication" for his group.

"I'm not going to answer the issues raised by BAP critics. It's better for us to continue working hard for the good of Philippine basketball," Lim told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Lim and the BAP top brass headed by its President Tiny Literal were supposed to attend yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn. They, however, failed to arrive due to floods brought about by tropical depression "Milenyo."

The BAP leadership came under heavy fire after the national youth team got clobbered in the recent SEABA championship hosted by Kuala Lumpur. The BAP-appointed coach Johny Tam also met heavy criticisms for the woeful showing of the national.

Former PSC Commissioner Monico Puentevella also joined BAP critics, calling the Kuala Lumpur debacle a "monumental dishonor to the country." He will conduct a congressional inquiry on Aug. 21.

The Philippines finished fourth in the five-team tournament won by Malaysia.

Tam coached the national team which beat defending champion Guandong-China in the Super League finals. The team previously beat Malaysia and Hong Kong.

"So many things have been said about the BAP after we lost the SEABA crown. We've also said our piece. It will be for the good of basketball if the BAP will no longer hit back," said Lim.

Lim said the Super League triumph means one thing—the BAP isn't sleeping on its job. "Despite the fragmented basketball scene, the BAP proved that it can still achieve good results."

# Shanghai trip awaits Streetball champions

WHEN the 2002 adidas Streetball Challenge national finals unfurl this weekend in Cebu City, expect teamwork, friendship and excitement to be the name of the game.

Top teams from the National Capital Region, Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will collide in the two-day cagefest for the seniors, women's juniors and midget championships.

A trip to Shanghai, China for the Asian Streetball finals on Aug. 29-Sept. 1 awaits the national champions. Special guests in the China finals are Antawn Jamison of the Golden State Warriors and Mike Miller of the Orlando Magic.

The magic of adidas streetball is indeed hard to resist. Just ask the quartet of John Della, Zanny Ryan Quiros and Mon Estigoy, who conspired to power Baguio City to the title in the 1997 national finals over an Ateneo team bannered by up and coming Enrico Villanueva and Wesley Gonzales.

"We really never talked about winning the whole thing," Della, the captain ball said. I guess we just didn't want to be overconfident. We were happy just to be able to play."

The national finals was held in Della's homeground. "Of course, we were the underdogs. We just gave it our best shot knowing that we were up against a Manila-based team," Quiros remembered.

With the hometown crowd cheering, Baguio City upstaged Ateneo and earned the right to represent the country in the adidas Streetball Finals in Taiwan.

"We were really happy with our achievement The Taiwan trip was a bonus,"said Estigoy. But something was still in store for the boys. One by one, the Philippines beat their counterparts and thrashed Thailand for the Asian crown.

*Dennis U. Eroa*

# Sosa hits 490th homer

CHICAGO–Sammy Sosa hit his major league-leading 40th home run and No. 490 of his career Monday, but it wasn't enough for the Chicago Cubs to avoid a 9-6 defeat at the hands of the Houston Astros.

Sosa now has five home runs and 16 RBIs in three games. Coming off a big weekend at Coors Field, his two-run shot made him only the third player in National league history to record five straight 40-homer seasons.

Hall of Famers Ralph Kiner (1947-51) and Duke Snider (1953-57) also accomplished the feat.

In a game in which Cubs ace Kerry Wood (9-6) and Houston pitcher Roy Oswalt (14-6) were both ejected, the Astros took a 9-2 lead and held on.

Daryle Ward led the Astros with three RBIs and a career-high four hits, finishing a triple away from hitting for the cycle.

Jeff Bagwell and Ward hit consecutive homers, and Brad Ausmus added a pair of RBIs for Houston. *AP*

# Ateneo cagers stay unbeaten

DOUBLE champion Ateneo triumphed anew last Sunday to maintain its clean slate in the Milo Best SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Xavier School gym.

The Ateneans ripped host Xavier, 68-47, in an SBP match and downed La Salle Greenhills, 51-41, in the Passerelle division for their third consecutive victories.

La Salle Greenhills and Lourdes School (Quezon City) matched Ateneo's SBP card by hurdling their respective rivals. The La Sallians overcame a 22-33 halftime deficit to nose out St. Benedict College, 61-60, while the Lourdes boys crushed Northfield School, 82-14.

**The other results:**

**SBP**—Don Bosco Makati d. Lourdes (Mandaluyong), 38-37; St. Francis d. Community of Learners, 48-9; Marist d. St. Mary's, 52-33; and San Beda d. Southridge, 52-26.

**PASSERELLE**—San Beda d. Flos Carmeli Institution, 121-33; De La Salle Zobel d. UST, 115-96; and St. Anthony d. Lourdes (Mandaluyong), 56-50.

**First game:**

**LSG 61**—Fran 19, Sia 16, Yulo 7, Aytona 4, Zacarias 4, Reyes 4, Quebral 2, Sollano 2, Ravena 2, Villanueva 1, Cantos 0, B. Lopez 0, Alivia 0, Darroca 0.

**ST. BENEDICT 60**—De Joya 17, Tiongco 10, Stevens 6, Rabadan 6, Manlutac 6, Barrios 4, Madrelejos 3, Sison 2, Cruz 2, Capucion 2, Alvarez 2, Morante 0, Aunor 0.

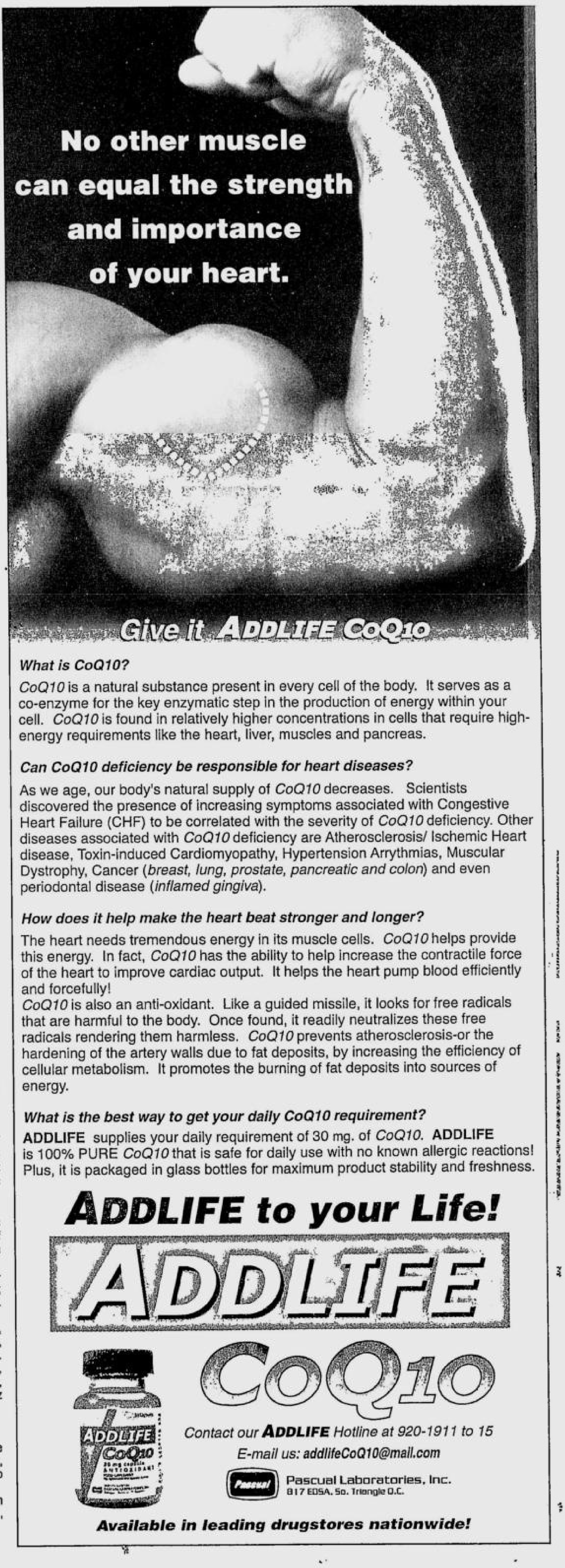
Halftime: 22-33.

**Second game:**

**ATENEO 68**—Enriquez 14, Reyes 11, Dumrique 11, Tolentino 8, Pascual 7, Firmacion 5, Pascual 4, Gamboa 3, Yuzon 3, Locsin 2, Maderal 0, Liborojo 0, Tamano 0, Dumrique 0.

**XAVIER 47**—G. Banal 12, Tangcueco 8, R. Tan 6, B. Tan 5, Chua 4, Ocier 4, Patco 4, Chiu 2, Siao 1, Banal 0, Sze 0, Cua 0, C. Dy 0, F. Dy 0.

Halftime: 36-27.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# Bayno fined a record P.2M for hitting PBA officiating

**By June Navarro**

**THE PBA Commissioner's Office yesterday slapped a record-breaking fine of P200,000 on Talk N Text head coach Bill Bayno for publicly criticizing the league and its officials.**

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said Bayno's tirades against the league should be done only within the confines of the Board of Governors.

"By your irresponsible statements bordering on contempt, you violated the league's Code of Ethics," Bernardino told Bayno in a statement.

Bernardino stressed that in the PBA's 27-year history, "This is the first time that a team personality criticized publicly the decision of the PBA Board of Governors and we cannot condone that."

According to Section 31 of the PBA Constitution, any team personality is prohibited from issuing or endorsing a statement designed to have a prejudicial or detrimental effect to the best interests of the league.

Prior to Bayno's criticisms, Republic Flour Mills top honcho Joey Concepcion held the record for the highest amount of fine ever slapped an individual. Concepcion was fined P100,000 in 1996 for hitting league officiating.

Bayno was fined P100,000 for criticizing league officiating and another P100,000 for unsavory statements against the Commissioner's Office, San Miguel Corporation, La Tondeña Distillers Inc. Purefoods Corp. and Coca-Cola Bottlers Corp.

Bernardino also reminded Bayno to just focus on coaching his team instead of questioning the policies and practices of the league.

"At this early stage of your coaching career in the PBA, it would benefit you the most more than anybody else to take this remider to heart," Bernardino told Bayno.

**BAYNO:** Costly lesson for Talk N Text coach. FILE PHOTO

# Thunder blast Turbo Chargers

**GAME TOMORROW** (Philsports)
7 p.m. San Miguel vs Coca Cola

BATANG Red Bull left no room for Shell Velocity to operate as it cruised to a 73-54 victory and barged into the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Commissioners Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Tony Lang typified the Thunder's inside strength as the 2001 Commissioner's Cup Best Import banged in 17 of his 25 points in the first half.

The top-seeded Thunder will face the winner between No. 4 San Miguel Beer and fifth-ranked Coca Cola in the best-of-five semifinal series.

*J. Navarro*

Scores:

**RED BULL 73**—Lang 25, Torion 14, Nwosu 12, Harp 9, Valenzuela 8, Miller 5, Se, 0, Tugade 0, Villoria 0, Hizon 0, Locsin 0.

**SHELL 54**—Jackson 20, Banks 11, Singson 8, Marzan 5, Dela Cruz 4, Del Rosario 2, Hrabak 2, Bajar 2, Esplana ), Calaguio 0, Wainwright 0.

Quarters: 16-13, 40-21, 59-38, 73-54

# Jordan wooed to join US Team

ATLANTA—The NBA's top stars aren't participating in the World Basketball Championships to be held in Indianapolis from Aug. 29-Sept. 8, but USA Basketball officials reportedly are hoping one man can make everyone, particulary ticket buyers, forget that.

The Chicago Tribune says Michael Jordan was approached privately about joining the team, which begins training Friday in San Francisco.

Committee insiders told the newspaper that they believe it is a long shot Jordan would be interested. But the thinking has been that if Jordan decides not to play for the Washington Wizards this season, the world championships would be an appropriate stage to set up a possible Jordan farewell at the 2004 Olympics in Greece.

That would provide Jordan a perfect bookend to his professional basketball career, which began in 1984 when he starred on the US Olympic team.

The current US roster for the World Championships: Ray Allen, Elton Brand, Antonio Davis, Baron Davis, Michael Finley, Raef LaFrentz, Shawn Marion, Andre Miller, Reggie Miller, Jermaine O'Neal, Paul Pierce and Ben Wallace.

JORDAN

# *Sportscasters receiving back wages today*

SPORTSCASTERS and other Viva Vintage hands working the PBA games will receive their back wages today.

This was learned yesterday from Ed Picson, one of the aggrieved broadcast journalists, who called up the INQUIRER Sports Department to relay the news.

"All's well that ends well," said Picson. "We've been informed today that our back wages will be given to us tomorrow."

Back wages for Picson & Co. and those of statisticians, make-up artists and other Viva Vintage personnel involved in PBA coverages amount to two months each from June to July.

The INQUIRER had exposed the non-payment of wages on Tuesday in a story headlined, "PBA sportscasters unpaid since June."

# Puyat heaps praise on POC's Dayrit

SPORTSMAN Aristeo "Putch" G. Puyat, considered by many as the "godfather" of Filipino billiards stars Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, has thanked the Philippine Olympic Committee for designating Bustamante as standard bearer of the Philippine delegation to the Busan Asian Games on Sept. 29-Oct. 14.

Putch and his brother Popit Puyat are the sponsors of Reyes, Bustamante and other top-rated Filipino cue artists in big local and international competitions like the recent world pool championship in Cardiff, Wales.

In his letter to POC President Celso L. Dayrit dated Aug. 11, Putch Puyat, the president of Puyat Sports said "to carry the flag (one of the country) in the opening rites of the Asian Games is the biggest honor any athlete can aspire for, more so for Bustamante who comes from humble beginnings and being in a sport that is still at its fledgling stage in terms of acceptance and recognition."

Puyat added that with his selection, Bustamante "has now joined the elite ranks of Carlos Loyzaga, Paeng Nepomuceno, Efren Reyes and our other great athletes who have been bestowed the honor of Philippine standard bearer."

The 38-year-old Bustamante finished second to American Earl Strickland in the Cardiff tourney, losing 15-17 in the finals where he played in grief due to the sudden demise of his six-month-old daughter.

But Django showed why he's feared by many of the world's best billiards players by beating another American, Johnny Archer, last Sunday to win the Peninsula 9-Ball Open in Virginia.

Bustamante was named Player of the Year by the US Magazine Billiards Digest in 1998 and earned the same honor from the Philippine Sportswriters Association a year later.

# Milo Little Olympics postponed

THE SCHEDULE of the opening ceremonies for the second leg of the 2002 Milo Little Olympics in Cagayan de Oro has been moved to Sept. 6. Competitions are scheduled on Sept. 7, 8 14 and 15.

Recently, the Milo Little Olympics, an inter-school sports competition for elementary and high school students held in four areas nationwide, successfully kicked off with its first leg in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Some 4,000 student athletes converged in Lingayen to participate in 11 sports events, including badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, chess, table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, swimming, football, volleyball and sepak takraw.

Sepak takraw is the newest event of the Milo Little Olympics, and is being held for the first time ever in the program's 12-year history.

The decision to include sepak takraw in the Milo Little Olympics was made due to the sport's ever-increasing popularity in the country and the rest of Asia, and even worldwide.

After Lingayen and Cagayan de Oro, the 2002 Milo Little Olympics will move to Cebu, where it will open on Sept. 13, with competitions to be held on Sept. 14, 15, 21 and 22.

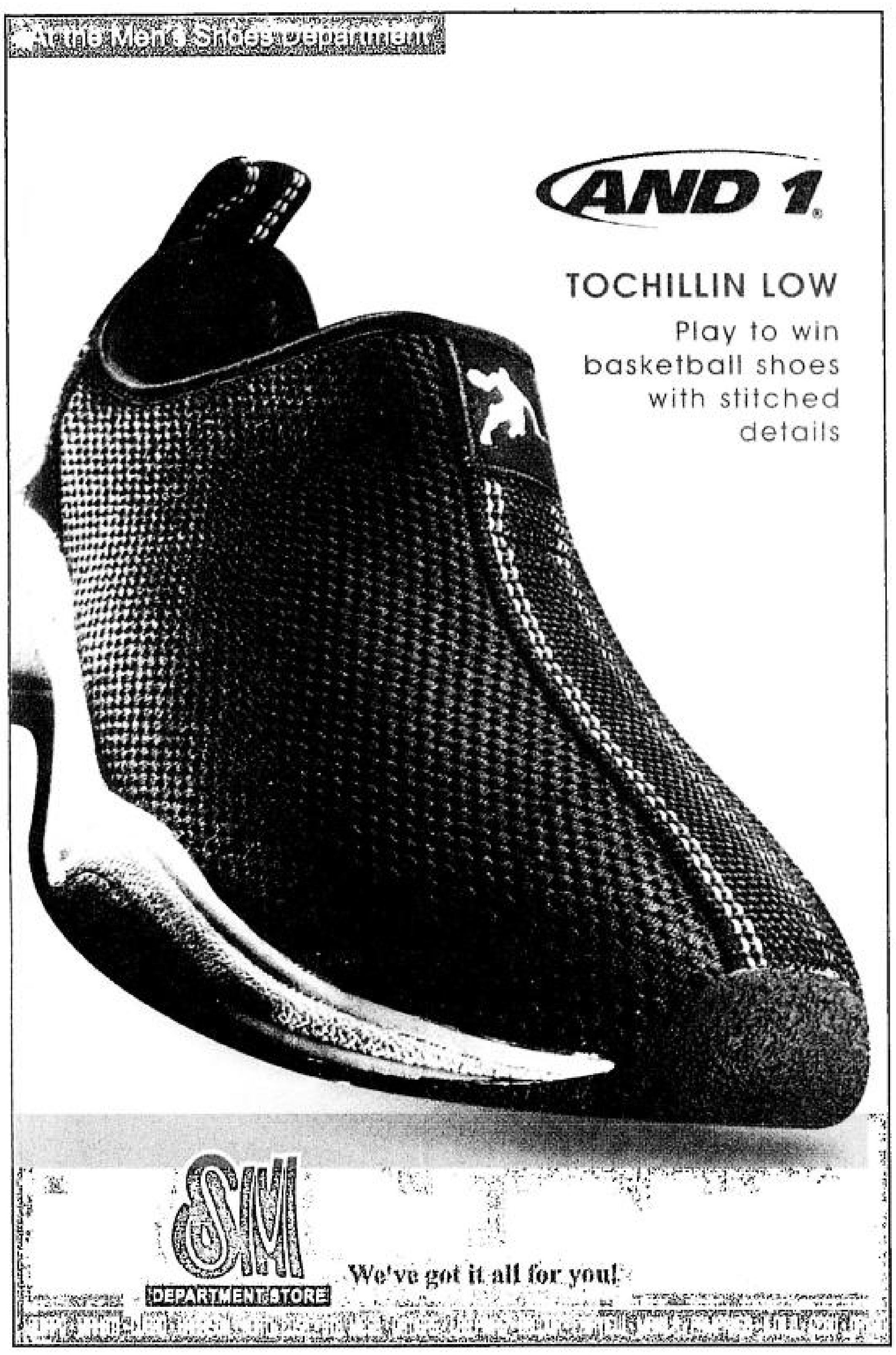
This year's Milo Little Olympics will culminate at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila with opening ceremonies on Oct. 12 and competitions on Oct. 12, 13, 19 and 20.

The Milo Little Olympics was first launched in Metro Manila by Milo, the Olympic Energy Drink, in line with brand's long-term commitment to promote sports and youth development.

The Milo Olympics expanded to include Cebu in 1996, Cagayan de Oro in 1997, and Pangasinan in 1998.

Over the years, the Milo Little Olympics has seen increasing participation by students, who now number in the tens of thousands.

Last year's participants totaled over 35,000, the biggest number ever in history.



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# 10 added to Asiad squad; jins eye 12 medals

## Buenavista places 6th; RP improves

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Filipino Eduardo Buenavista placed sixth yesterday in the 5,000m run at the close of the 14th Asian Athletic Championships at the Sugathadasa Stadium here.

The Philippines thus ended its stint in the 41-nation field with one silver and one bronze medal, courtesy of long jumpers Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Maristella Torres.

"Our athletes fared according to expectations," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "After all, this is our best finish since 1985 and the last time we won a medal was in 1993."

*Roy Luarca*

By Marc Anthony Reyess

**TEN more from equestrian, judo and wrestling were added yesterday to the Philippine Team, jacking the number of athletes to 206 bound for the Busan Asian Games.**

This was announced by Asian Games chief of mission Tom Carrasco, who added he was still waiting for at least 10 more athletes from track and field, shooting and cycling.

In a related development, Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Sung Chon Hong yesterday predicted that the Philippines can win 12 medals in the Busan Asian Games.

Carrasco said the final list of athletes going to the Asiad will be sent Aug. 15 to the Busan organizers.

And though the roster has gone past the targeted 200, Carrasco said the Athletes Village officials have already allotted 400 slots for the Philippine delegation.

He said there should be "no problem because at the most, the country will probably have 220 athletes and about 110 officials only."

With regard to the funding, POC officials said the projected P30 million budget will be enough for the delegation because "we have estimated the air fare and accommodation of each of the delegation member to cost P75,000."

The POC had earlier allowed one athlete from table tennis, squash, tennis and badminton to join the RP team despite failing to make the criteria set by the Task Force.

The delegation includes the 22-man national baseball team.

Appearing as guest in the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn, Hong gave that forecast following the national team's strong performances abroad.

That prediction includes a medal each from the 12 members of the national taekwondojins led by Sydney Olympians Donnie Geisler, Roberto Cruz and Eva Marie Ditan.

."I believe in my players. All of them have the capacity to win medals. I just don't know what the color of the medals would be," said Hong. "If we are lucky, we can win 12."

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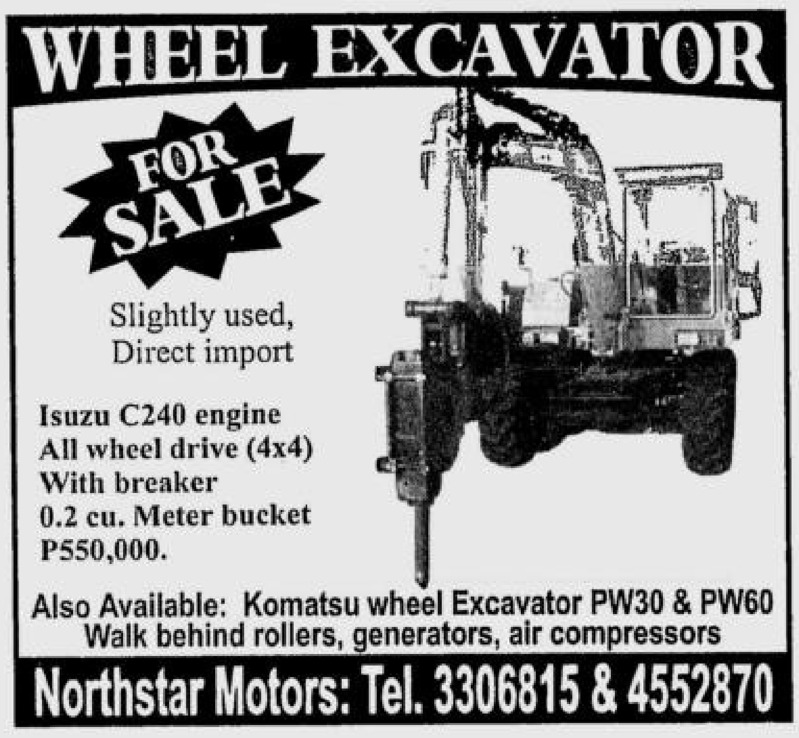
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# Benilde seeks 9th win; Letran battles for survival

**SKATE ASIA INT'L**

**Sisters Paula and Samantha Uy and cousin Anna Beatrice Graciano Jose will leave today for Bangkok to compete in the Skate Asia International at the Thai capital. The event, set to begin this weekend, will include a record field of 500 skaters from 12 countries. The country's bets are from Ice Skating Team from Southmall Chapter.**

By Dennis U. Eroa

**GAMES TODAY** (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—CSB vs SBC (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Srs/Jrs)

THE pacesetter meets the tailender as College of St. Benilde clashes with San Beda College, even as second-running Philippine Christian University meets Letran in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

St. Benilde (8-1) and SBC (1-7) clash at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. tussle between PCU (7-2) and Letran (3-5) at 4 p.m.

The Blazers are already assured of a Final Four berth, while the Red Lions are already out of contention with a 1-7 card.

Meanwhile, Fr. Bede Hechanova of host San Beda, and head of the NCAA management committee, said reminders will be given to Mapua coach Horacio Lim and CSB's Dong Vergeire regarding their oncourt actuations following the controversial Blazers-Cards match last Aug. 12.

Mapua was behind, 67-60, when Lim and the Cardinals refused to resume play, claiming biased officiating. Benilde was declared winner by forfeiture.

Coach Jimmy Mariano's Dolphins are hoping to put more distance over third-running and defending champion San Sebastian College (6-2). The top two teams at the end of the double round robin eliminations will earn the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four.

Letran is trying to keep its semis hopes alive with a victory over PCU. The Knights are chasing the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers for the fourth and last semis berth.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Steward Go rolled 2925 pins to win the men's title in the 1st SMBC-TCBA Open tenpin bowling championship at the SM Center in North Edsa.

# Malarayat golf on today

THE FIRST Active Group Mid-Amateur Open, Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club's initial try in starting an annual national tournament, comes off the wraps today in Lipa City.

An impressive field of 100 comprising young and veteran golfing executives and entrepreneurs is competing in the 54-hole tournament, the brainchild of MMGC Chair and architect Tony Turalba.

"This tournament certainly will be one of our major club championships," Turalba said yesterday. "And hopefully, it will in due time become a national event as well."

Tee-off time is between 8 and 10 a.m. Preceding actual competition is the hitting of ceremonial drives. Leading the honors are Turalba and his son Junior or Toti, the MMGC general manager.

"To make our tournament also competitive, we are dividing the players according to their handicap indexes," said Jack Imperial, MMGC golf operations manager.

"Those with 7.3 or better will play in the Championship Class while those with 7.4-12.2 will see action in Class A, 12.3-17.1 will compete in Class B and 17.2-22.1 will vie in Class C."

## Mizuno-PGAP moved

HEAVY rains brought about by Typhoon Milenyo yesterday forced organizers of the inaugural Mizuno-PGAP Two-Man Team Challenge at Aguinaldo to move the final round to Friday, Aug. 16.

The Sta. Elena team of Richard Sinfuego (65) and Felix Fernando (72) stormed to a four-stroke lead with a combined 137.

*Jong Arcano*

# Hearing on RA 9064 Aug. 21

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

THE HOUSE Committee on Youth and Sports, chaired by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, is scheduled to conduct a hearing on Aug. 21 to discuss proposed amendments to Republic Act 9064 in response to the clamor seeking the granting of monetary rewards to Filipino athletes whose exploits and accomplishments did not come in an Olympic sport.

This is a bit of good news to many of us, including employees of Manila Water Co. led by Bert A. Ramirez, who have been campaigning to do justice to Filipino athletes who have brought glory and honor to our country in non-Olympic disciplines.

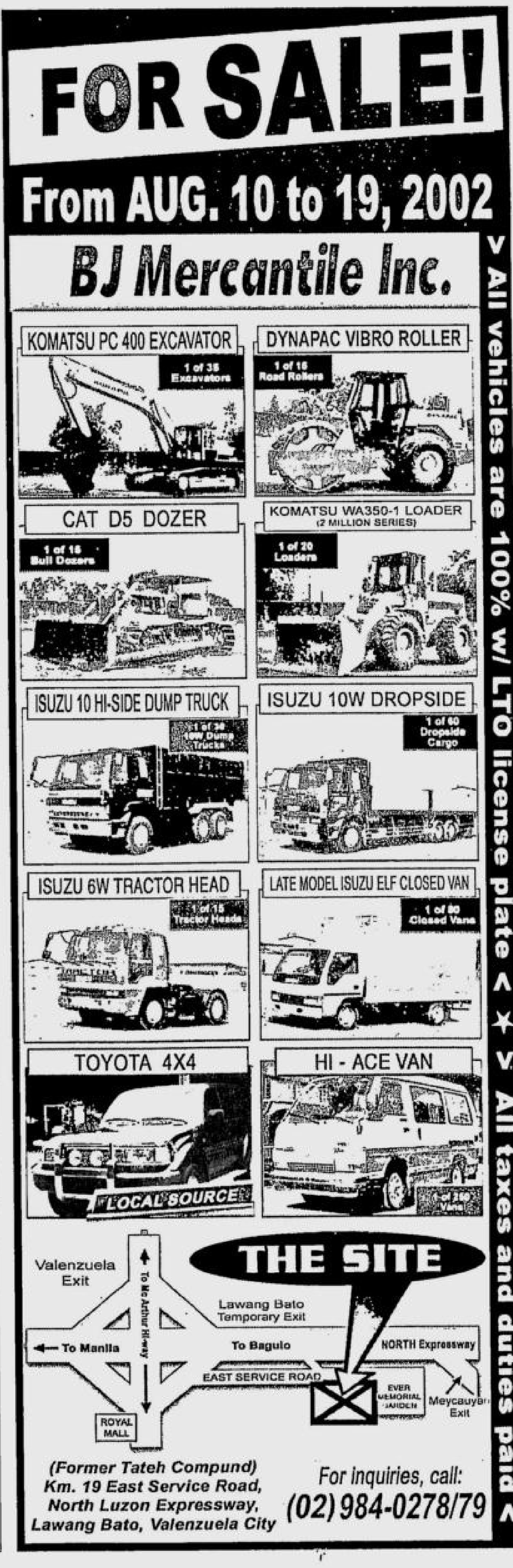
In their petition to both Houses of Congress Manila Water employees said, "A few weeks ago, the first batch of Filipino athletes who won medals for the Philippines in international competitions received their cash rewards under RA 9064 (also called the Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001). In these times of economic difficulties, this is, in need, a welcome development."

Still, they pointed out, the momentous event failed to recognize a certain group of athletes who are no less eminent and deserving of the rewards. This is because RA 9064 excludes athletes who won medals in non-Olympic sports such as bowling, billiards, golf and chess. (The landmark law only grants cash rewards and other incentives to athletes who win medals in quadrennial events like the Olympics and Asian Games.—MRI).

"Where is fairness here?" they asked. To distinguish between an Olympic and non-Olympic sport, the petition stressed, is to disregard the world-renowned accomplishments of Rafael "Paeng" Nepomuceno and Efren "Bata" Reyes. "Surely, no sports-loving individual is not aware of what these men have accomplished in their lifetime."

Who can, for example, ignore the significance of Nepomuceno winning the World Cup of Bowling, one of the toughest tournaments in the world, a record four times? Who can underestimate the impact of Bata Reyes' feat of capturing the 1999 World Pool 9-Ball title in Cardiff, Wales, where billiards champions of 46 countries competed? Yet, the petition said, "it is ironic that when RA 9064 was passed and approved into law, the very same bodies (the Senate and the House) that once proclaimed them, (Nepomuceno in particular as the 'Greatest Filipino Athlete of All Time") choose to exclude them from those covered by that law all because they did not play an Olympic sport. If having the misfortune of being a world champion in a non-Olympic sports would be the main consideration for one's being ignored in legislation that is supposed to reward our best athletes, then it is grossly unfair, terribly unjust and highly illogical."

I agree. And that is why I am appealing to the members of Congress, notably sportsminded Senators Robert Jaworski, Vicente Sotto III and Manuel Villar and Speaker Jose de Venecia and Congressmem Monico Puentevella and Jaime Lopez to rally behind these athletes who have brought honors to this country by enacting amendments to RA 9064.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# METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

**BEFORE** flying to the US first-class on her "hard-earned money," Kris Aquino tells Naia reporters: "I'm going away because I've been hurting a lot of people."

ROGER MARGALLO

# Joey: I'm sorry I married Alma

**MARQUEZ**

By Leah Salterio

"IVE BEEN with other women and she's the only one who did that to me. I'm sorry that I married her."

Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez was referring to his estranged wife, actress Alma Moreno, following her "cursing and threatening" of his current girlfriend, Kris Aquino, in a hospital on Friday night.

At the same time, Marquez said in a phone interview on Monday that he intends to make "everything legal" as far as his controversial relationship with Aquino is concerned.

JOEY/ p. A26

# DOJ: Medel retraction is valid

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department panel that last year handled the Nida Blanca murder case yesterday affirmed the validity of the recantation of confessed killer Philip Medel Jr. and slammed Nestorio Gualberto, former head of the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, for allegedly bungling the initial investigation of the Blanca murder by filing the case "prematurely."

In a manifestation, State Prosecutor Emmanuel Y. Velasco, a member of the first DOJ panel said he and another panel member, prosecution lawyer Irwin A. Maraya, had to uphold the validity of Medel's retraction during the preliminary investigation on Nov. 23, 2001 because "(Medel) was not willing to testify anymore."

Velasco also clarified that he and Maraya did not dismiss the Blanca case but merely "remanded" it back to the Philippine National Police, because Gualberto's case was "poorly prepared."

"A prosecutor worth his salt would never commit such blunder," Velasco said.

"What we ordered was (for) the NBI to take custody of Medel, investigate his allegations that he was tortured, and conduct a parallel investigation of the case with the PNP."

DOJ/ p. A26

# No suspect named yet in Go slay, says WPD

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE has not yet named a suspect in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go even as Go's widow Corazon had tagged a Chinese businessman as her husband's probable murderer.

NO SUSPECT/ p. A26

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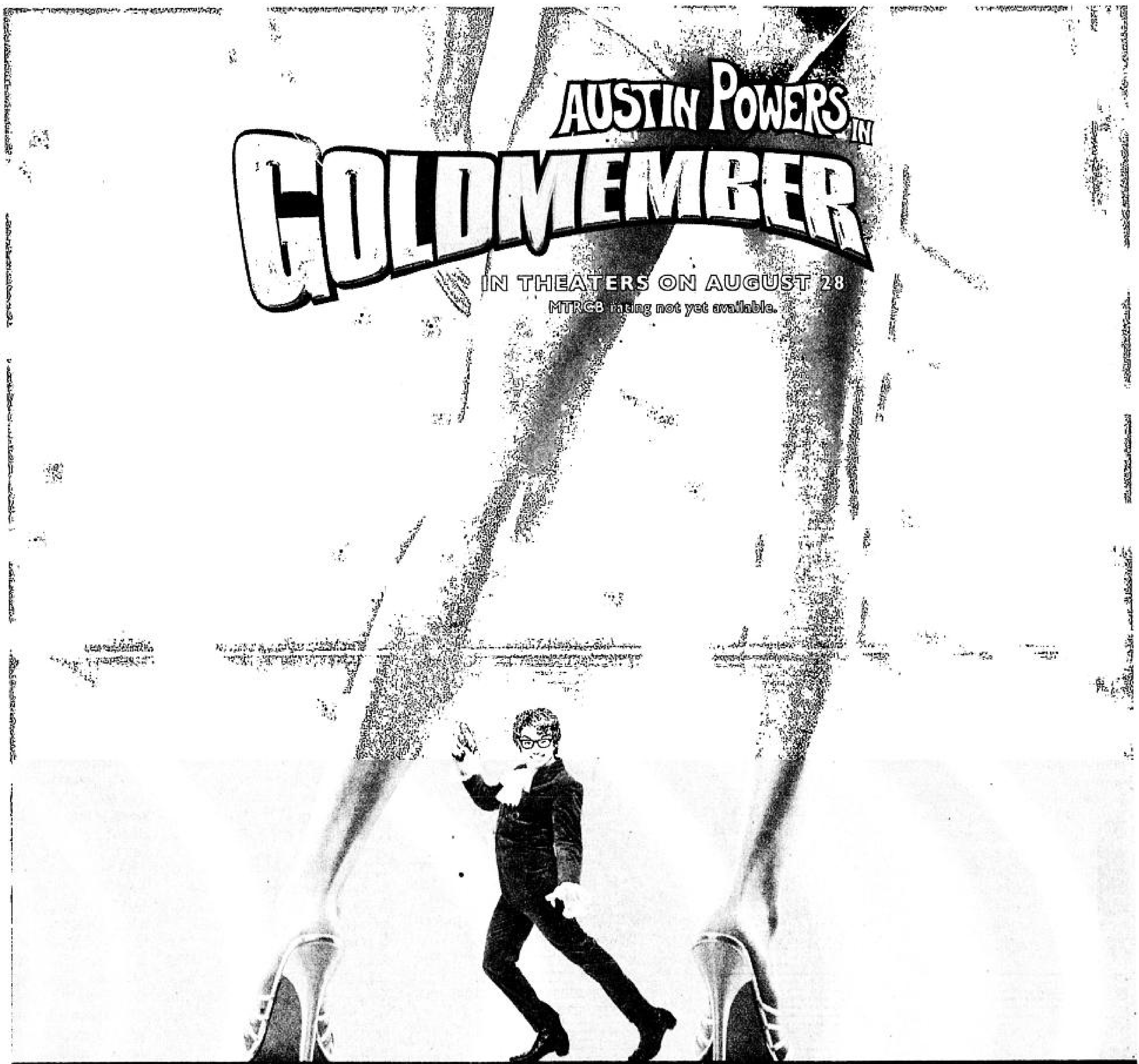

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# 'The most independent spirit ever'

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

*(We take great pride in printing Nick Joaquin's homage to Franz Arcellana. This was recited at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last Aug. 6).*

Hi, Franz, I'm here to hail you: AVE! But I'm not saying: VALE! Because I'm sure you'll be seeing me again pretty soon. I got a ticket to ride. One Way. But now, now don't be afraid I am here to wax maudlin. I have come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

What I liked about this Caesar was: He himself never was maudlin. When I stopped participating in the UP writing workshops, he asked why. I explained that a very young girl had burst into tears when I panned her verses, and not all my apologies could stop her heartbreaking sobbing. And as I said to Franz: "Not all the poetry in the world is worth the tears of a child." And Franz said something like: "Literature is worth all the tears in the world, whether the tears be childish or adult."

But no, sir: In no way at all was Franz Arcellana hard-hearted. Once he and I were invited to judge a short-story contest in a college writing class. It was just a simple intramural exercise and there were no prizes to be won. But when Franz saw the winners (they were utter babies!) he said to me: *"Compadre,* this is probably the very first time in their life these kids are winning a match. So why should it be only honors they will win? Let's give them some money prizes." And I cried in alarm: "No, Franz let's not! I'm not carrying any money." (I never carry any money.) And Franz said: "Okay, *Compadre,* I'll lend you the money, but be sure you pay me back." And that's how those lucky kids got unexpected prizes of a hundred pesos for the top winner, seventy pesos for the second placer, and thirty pesos for the cellar scribe. And we did not give them those prizes because we thought they had written masterpieces.

***

Otherwise, Franz was very strict about worthiness in literature. When someone he did not consider a writer at all was sent to Bangkok and there honored as the Filipino writer of the year, Franz was livid. It seemed to him shameless dishonesty—and a dishonesty all the more squalid because pushed by politics.

He had known such interested pushers on the literary scene during his early writing days—I don't say neophyte days because I don't believe Francisco Arcellana was ever a neophyte. How do you distinguish between his prewar writings and his postwar work when both have the same youthful exuberance, the same thoughtful maturity? Jose Garcia Villa loved to say that he (Villa) didn't have to develop. "I," said he, "was born already evolved."

And the same can be said for Arcellana. Franz was born already equipped with the prose that would be his creative tool for life—a prose that could, at his bidding, be matter-of-fact or rapturous. It was as complete an instrument in early days as in later times.

But as I started to say: When Franz was in his early writing days, Filipino writers in English were being pushed this way and that by critics of all shapes and sizes—and each critic was positive he knew what Filipino writing in English should be. This chap here was saying it should be nationalistic. That chap there was declaring it should be proletarian. A third fellow wanted a return to the prehispanic, while another yelled to hell with yesterday and all the past: Let's embrace tomorrow and the future, meaning Mother America's way of life. And of course each critic grabbed at whichever writers he felt he could push.

But there were two writers they could not touch: Jose Garcia Villa and Francisco Arcellana, because both Franz and Doveglion were so clearly genius in excelsis, not to be interfered with, not to be interrupted.

And that was the good luck of Philippine culture, because thus did we acquire two treasures: the small but priceless hoard of Villa's poetry, and the small but priceless hoard of Arcellana's prose, which Franz was able to create unmolested by the cultural high priests of the 1930s.

And those bullies could not cow him because they knew he didn't see them, he didn't hear them, he didn't feel them, he didn't care a *camote* about them. What he cared about was doing his own special kind of work in his own special way: the writing nobody else could do but Francisco Arcellana. That was his credo--and no one could push him any other way.

***

I'm afraid I tried pushing him a little myself, after he disappeared into the groves of academe. "Franz, you can't stop writing!" "Franz, when are you going to do your first novel?" "Franz, you have this history of Philippine writing in English to tackle!" And when he retired from the UP I pushed ever harder. "Now, Compadre, you have no more excuses. You now have all the time in the world to do the books that have been languishing, waiting to be done by you. Now, *Compadre,* you have to go back to writing!"

And so forth, and so on—as if I didn't know pushers like me were what Franz Arcellana didn't see, didn't hear, didn't feel, and didn't care a *camote* about. He was the most independent spirit ever.

So now, Franz, I'll salute you with the classic greeting: AVE! I won't say hallelujah, I won't say alas and alack, and I certainly won't say: VALE.

See? I wasn't too maudlin, was I?

Franz, I'll be seeing you.

# NBP watched for communist rescue try

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

PRISON authorities are on heightened alert following reports that the New People's Army might attack the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa to free 27 political prisoners there.

"We're not taking any chances," said Director Ricardo Macala of the Bureau of Corrections. "I asked my men to be ready in case of an attack."

Among the prominent political prisoners at the NBP are Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas, who were both convicted for the murder of US intelligence officer Col. James Rowe on April 21, 1989.

Macala's order came after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared an all-out war on the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The NPA had threatened to sabotage electric supply facilities especially after the United States government included the CPP-NPA in its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Macala said he had ordered the 1,000-strong prison security force to impose tighter security measures to prevent rebels from infiltrating and possibly attacking the 400-hectare compound.

He said prison guards are armed with high-powered firearms such as machine guns.

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# Traffic cop slain in parking rage

**By Alcuin Papa**

TRAFFIC policeman PO3 Marcelo Lasam was shot dead yesterday in Quezon City after he tried to accost the driver and a passenger of an illegally parked vehicle.

Lasam, a member of the Traffic Management Group based in Camp Crame and assigned to the Balintawak detachment, died from several gunshot wounds in the body at the Manila Central University Hospital, investigators said. A bystander, Anabelle Martinez, 20, of Gana Compound, was seriously wounded when she was hit by stray bullets.

Based on investigation by PO2 Lester Lavista of the Sangandaan police station, the shooting occured at 3:15 a.m. in front of the Oriental Market near the Cloverleaf in Balintawak, Edsa, Quezon City.

Lasam was busy keeping the traffic flowing in the area when he spotted an illegally parked jeep (TDF-273). He approached the vehicle which had two men on board to warn them that they were illegally parked.

But the men immediately opened fire at the cop, Lavista said. Martinez, who was on her way to the market, was also hit.

The suspects escaped on board their vehicle, police said. Bystanders brought Lasam to a hospital where he died while undergoing treatment. Police were looking for the still unidentified suspects.

# DOJ: Medel

From p. A25

so that there would be no "legal obstacle as to the refiling of the case before the Department of Justice," Velasco said.

Former Sandigabayan Justice Harriet Demetriou, counsel for Blanca, maintained that the DOJ panel has yet to establish the validity of Medel's recantation.

Last year, Medel had told the authorities that he killed the actress on orders of her husband, the American Roger Lauren Strunk. Medel later recanted his confession, claiming the authorities had tortured him.

On July 17, the National Bureau of Investigation charged Strunk and Medel with the murder of Blanca. Six others, including three security guards of the Atlanta Centre building in San Juan where Blanca's body was found, were charged with obstruction of justice.

Medel is now in the custody of the NBI, while Strunk is in the United States.

Velasco yesterday said Gualberto accused him during Monday's preliminary investigation at the DOJ of believing Medel's recantation even before the CIDG could present its witnesses to pin down Medel and Strunk.

"Witnesses? I must stress here that they have no other witnesses at that time against Rod Strunk or against Medel himself," Velasco countered. "The records of the case will bear me out. How could we proceed when there are no other witnesses except for Medel who showed that he is not willing to testify anymore?

"I am executing this affidavit in order to set the record straight," he said. "We never dismissed the case. The November 2001 Resolution ... (is) very clear--we referred (the case) back to the CIDG and asked the NBI to conduct its own parallel probe for them to dig deeper into the matter and ... to gather additional evidence."

Velasco's manifestation was submitted yesterday to the new DOJ panel tasked to reinvestigate the Blanca murder.

Velasco's manifestation could affect the ongoing reinvestigation of the Department of Justice.

Both the NBI and the PNP claimed that Medel's recantation should not be honored because he had executed his original confession "voluntarily."

On the strength of Medel's original handwritten confession, the NBI and PNP filed the criminal charges against Strunk, Medel and six others on July 17.

But unlike Gualberto, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Monday submitted sworn affidavits of at least 27 independent witnesses and additional evidence corroborating Medel's claim that Strunk ordered him to kill the popular actress on Nov. 7, 2001.

The DOJ panel is now headed by Senior State Prosecutor Archimedez Manabat.

# Pi Sigma turns 30

THE PI Sigma Fraternity, established at the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1972, is celebrating its 30th founding year tomorrow, Aug. 15.

Lawyer Zardi Abellera, president of the Pi sigma Alumni Asociation (PSAA), said the national convention of Sigmans will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17, 1-5 p.m., at the UP School of Labor and International Relations auditorium in UP Diliman.

A grand alumni homecoming will follow at the UP Bahay ng Alumni starting at 6 p.m.

Pi-Sigma and Pi Sigma Delta alumni are advised to call Uribe at (0917)8122-995, Abellera at (0917)4859-756, Mia at 436-3484, or e-mail pisigma@edsamail. com.ph.

# Joey: I'm sorry I married Alma

From p. A25

He said he will pursue the annulment case he filed against Moreno so he can eventually propose marriage to Aquino.

"I want to shield Kris from further embarrassment," Marquez, 42, said.

Aquino, 31, on Monday night left for the United States following a tearful television interview Sunday afternoon.

"I'm doing this for myself," the daughter of former President Corazon Aquino told airport reporters. "Joey understands. I also talked to (my son) Josh and his dad Ipe (Phillip Salvador). I hope my mom also understands. I love her very much. I'm going away because I've been hurting a lot of people."

Marquez denied he would be joining his girlfriend in the US.

"We all need time to be alone," he said. "But we'll be in touch."

He added: "I was really hurt when Ness (Alma) called (Kris) names. I shouldn't let that happen again. That's very unfair for Kris. She is a very good person. That's what makes me love her more."

Moreno confronted Aquino Friday morning at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City, where Marquez was undergoing an angiogram.

MORENO

"I was the one who told Kris to wait in the hospital, outside the operating room," Marquez said. "Ness wasn't supposed to be there. She even dragged other people into this because of her anger."

Also waiting with Aquino outside the operating room were her best friend, singer Zsa Zsa (Padilla), and Marquez's older sister, Via Hoffman.

"Zsa Zsa didn't deserve what she heard from Ness that day," Marquez rued. "(Zsa Zsa) was there only to be with Kris."

Marquez admitted he is mad at his former wife, who left him last January after a 12-year marriage. Moreno was rumored to be having an affair with Julian Say, a Cebu City-based executive and disc jockey of Nation Broadcasting Corp., but she had denied this.

"She did a foolish thing behind my back," Marquez said. "That's unforgivable."

Marquez said that while they were still married, he had to take care of Moreno's extended family.

"I thought it was only her, but she had nieces, nephews, other family members and even gay friends who depended on me," he said. "But I never complained.

In the hospital incident, Moreno had told Aquino that the latter would remain a mistress because she (Moreno) would not sign the annulment papers.

"But we don't need her signature," Marquez pointed out. "The court will be the one to decide on that."

Marquez is represented by lawyer Frank Chavez. During the preliminary hearing last Aug. 2, Moreno made a scene in the fiscal's office, according to Marquez.

"She was violent and she was threatening to do a lot of things," he said. "That clearly showed she doesn't respect me anymore."

Aquino traveled alone and was met in Los Angeles by her friend and makeup artist, Bambbi Fuentes.

The host of ABS-CBN's popular game show, "Game Ka Na Ba," wiill be away for two weeks. She will be staying at the Beverly Hills Hotel in L.A.

# *Slain doc's kin hit 'delaying tactic'*

**By Romulo Ponte,**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CALAMBA CITY--The relatives of slain heart specialist Franklin Avellaneda criticized as plain delaying tactic the defense motion to study for 20 days the prosecution's request for a multiple hold-departure order against the suspects.

But during yesterday's hearing at the Regional Trial Court Branch 35, presiding Judge Romeo C. de Leon gave the defense only 10 days to give their comments on the prosecution lawyers' hold-departure order motion for accused Kissinger Brion Kraft, Mark Alba, Manuel Zamora and Rolando Rivera Jr. who was recently exonerated reportedly due to insufficient evidence.

Government prosecutor Sonia Yu-Casano, in behalf of Avellaneda's counsel, Pete Prinsipe, submitted the motion before the court.

Florencio Avellaneda, the victim's elder brother, complained after the hearing that their motion was very simple and immediate.

"I don't think it needs 10 days for the suspects' lawyers to study our motion (hold-departure order)," he said. "That is is too long, enough for the suspects to travel elsewhere to escape prosecution."

Dr. Avellaneda was killed on May 11 at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

# No suspect named yet in Go slay, says WPD

From p. A25

But Western Police District chief Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday distanced himself from Corazon's statement and said that investigators were still studying the evidence they have gathered in the case.

"We will see," Bulaong said. "We are still investigating the evidence."

Corazon has named a Chinese businessman that her husband had slapped with a damage suit as the most probable suspect in the killing.

"That is what she said, that' up to her," Bulaong said. "But let me state that we have not yet named anyone (as a suspect) in the case."

He added that his men had sought Go's wife to ask her about the former councilor's death.

Police had said on Monday that Go might have been killed because of the case he filed against the businessman with whom he had a falling out in 1999.

Go sued the businessman for failing to pay him money he had borrowed for a failed business venture at the Clark Field free trade zone in Pampanga.

In a copy of a letter Go's lawyers had sent to the businessman on May 3, 1999, the former councilor asked the businessman to pay him P5,155,000.

The letter was part of a voluminous file Go had given President Macapagal-Arroyo at the National Bureau of Investigation on Aug. 2, according to Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

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| 1 LILO & STITCH | 1 LILO & STITCH | 1 MAKATI CINE-MANILA 2002 | 1 THE SWEETEST THING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 | 1 UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 KILLING ME SOFTLY | 2 KILLING ME SOFTLY | 2 MAKATI CINE-MANILA 2002 | 2 UNFAITHFUL 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20 | 2 THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 THE SWEETEST THING | 3 UNFAITHFUL 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 | RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM | 3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 | 3 LILO & STITCH |
| 4 UNFAITHFUL | 4 8 LEGGED FREAKS | | 4 KILLING ME SOFTLY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 | 4 ORANGE COUNTY |
| | 5 ABOUT A BOY | | 5 LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 | 5 ABOUT A BOY |
| | 6 THE SWEETEST THING | | | |
| | 7 ORANGE COUNTY | | | |

Reserve your seats by texting *SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com *GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

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# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE
## NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ORANGE COUNTRY
2 (SDDS) WINDTALKERS
3 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 GOLD (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) LILO & STICH
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE SWEETEST THING
7 GOLD (DOLBY) KILLING ME SOFTLY
8 STUART LITTLE -2
9 LILO & STITCH
10 D'URAGONS

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

### Masagana CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 THE SWEETEST THING
2 D' URAGONS
3 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) UNFAITHFUL
5 BIGLANG LIKO

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
2 D' URAGONS
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 THE SWEETEST THING
7
8

### PREMIERE CINEMA
LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13
1 UNFAITHFUL

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 GALING-GALING MO
2 STUART LITTLE 2

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
3 BIGLANG LIKO

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3
4

### GOTESCO CINEMA

### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2
3
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 BIGLANG LIKO
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS) LILO & STITCH
9 (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING

### Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 D' URAGONS
4 (SDDS) THE SWEETEST THING
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
6 (DOLBY) LILO & STITCH
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 GALING-GALING MO
9 SAGAD

### Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS) LILO & STITCH
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING
8 BIGLANG LIKO

### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) LILO & STITCH
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS) UNFAITHFUL

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BIGLANG LIKO

### Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BIGLANG LIKO

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MAPUPULANG ROSAS
Lords MAPUPULANG ROSAS
Jennet

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 URAGON
2 GALING MO BABES
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

### New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

### FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1
2

### Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 - 879 21 67
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

### CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SAGAD
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LILO & STITCH
2 (DTS) MEGIDDO
3 (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING
4 UNFAITHFUL

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THE SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY) LILO & STITCH
3 (DTS) MEGIDDO
4 UNFAITHFUL

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' URAGONS
2 WINDTALKERS
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4

### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 D' URAGONS
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DOLBY) WINDTALKERS
4 (DTS) STUART LITTLE 2

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BIGLANG LIKO
2 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
3
4 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) UNFAITHFUL
2 SAGAD
3 (DTS) LILO 7 STITCH
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 SAGAD
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 LILO & STITCH

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 SAGAD
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 THE SWEETEST THING

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) SAGAD
2 (DTS) RESERVE

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

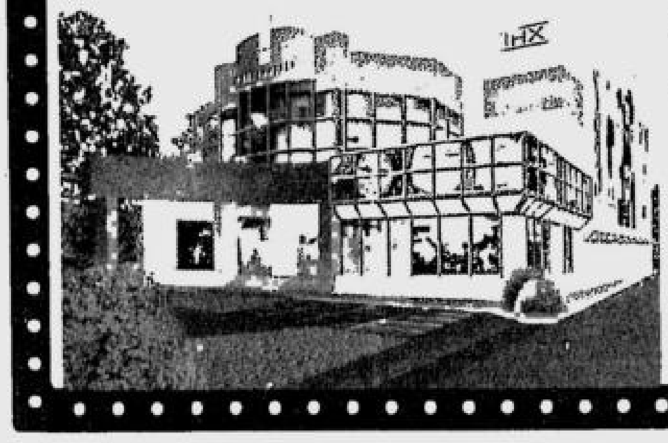
### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 GALING-GALING MO..
2 D' URAGONS
3 THE WINDTALKERS

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 D' URAGONS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 MEGIDDO
4 D' URAGONS

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LILO & STITCH
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) THE UNFAITHFUL
4 MEGIDDO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM

**about a boy**

---

# SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
## NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 8 LEGGED FREAKS
6 D' URAGONS
7 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 D' URAGONS
2 SWEETEST THING
3 LILO & STITCH
4 KILLING ME SOFTLY
5 8 LEGGED FREAKS
6 STUART LITTLE 2
7 UNFAITHFULL
8 WINDTALKERS
9 BIGLANG LIKO
10 ANG GALING-GALING MO

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 ORANGE COUNTRY
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4 LILO & STITCH
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 D' URAGONS
7 SWEETEST THING
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 WINDTALKERS
10 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
11 ANG GALING-GALING MO
12 BIGLANG LIKO

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 SWEETEST THING
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 ORANGE COUNTRY
4 LILO & STITCH
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 WINDTALKERS
7 STUART LITTLE 2
8 BIGLANG LIKO
9 D' URAGONS
10 ABOUT A BOY
11 SORORITY BOYS
12 8 LEGGED FREAKS

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SWEETEST THING
6 ORANGE COUNTRY
7 ANG GALING-GALING MO
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 D' URAGONS
10 WINDTALKERS
11 STUART LITTLE 2
12 BIGLANG LIKO

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452
1 KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 ANG GALING-GALING MO
5 SWEETEST THING
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 WINDTALKERS
8 LILO & STITCH

### SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 ORANGE COUNTRY
6 ANG GALING-GALING MO
7 D' URAGONS
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 WINDTALKERS
10 BIGLANG LIKO

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 WINDTALKERS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 ABOUT A BOY
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 MEGIDDO
7 ANG GALING-GALING MO
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 CLOSED
3 ANG GALING-GALING MO
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128016
1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 MEGIDDO
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 SWEETEST THING
5 D' URAGONS
6 LILO & STITCH

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 D' URAGONS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 BIGLANG LIKO

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LILO & STITCH
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 D' URAGONS

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 HIGH CRIME
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 ANG GALING-GALING MO
5 WINDTALKERS
6 LILO & STITCH

### SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
*SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
*SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6389781-85 loc 120

1 LILO & STITCH
11:00 FS, 11:30 MF, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 10:30 LFS, 11:00 LMF, 12:25 END

2 UNFAITHFUL
11:00 FS, 11:20 MF, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:40 LFS, 11:00 LMF, 1:00 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
## NOW SHOWING

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX WINDTALKERS
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 ORANGE COUNTY
5 LILO & STITCH
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 BIGLANG LIKO
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY
9 ABOUT A BOY
10 STUART LITTLE 2

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 ORANGE COUNTY
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 LILO & STITCH
7 KILLING ME SOFTLY

### Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 LILO & STITCH
5 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 THE SWEETEST THING
7 WINDTALKERS
8 BIGLANG LIKO

### Novaliches
935- 3729 - 30
1 KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 LILO & STITCH
3 ORANGE COUNTY
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 WINDTALKERS

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 KILLING ME SOFTLY

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 LILO & STITCH
2 MEGIDDO
3 ANG GALING 2 MO BABES
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 STUART LITTLE 2
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 MEGIDDO
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING 2 MO BABES

### Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961-5318 / 5270
1 MEGGIDO
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 LILO & STITCH
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 LILO & STITCH

malabon citisquare-
soon to open

**Late Night Screening**
heather graham joseph fiennes
**killing me softly**
on
August 9 -10, 2002 / Friday & Saturday - 11pm. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

# Joey Albert returns to Captain's Bar stage

THE MONTHLY concert series, "Crossover Presents," brings back Joey Albert in a special, one-night engagement, Aug. 15 at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Joey will be joined onstage by musical director Gerard Salonga, with "Crossover Presents" resident musicians–Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar and Roy Mercado on drums–with talented vocal group The Opera. Special guest is comedian Jon Santos.

The soothing strains of Da Capo starts off the show at 8 p.m.

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover at 731-1667 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

ALBERT

Don Henrico's Pizza, Pasta & More
Enervon PRIME Sharp Mind. Active Body.
in association with Crementia
proudly present
Mitch Valdes ROCKS!
AUGUST 29, THURSDAY, 9 P.M.
at Onstage
2nd level, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City
Show tickets at P600 • P800 (plus 3% ticketron charge)
Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries and reservations call 891-5610

OPENS AUGUST 21

VIN DIESEL
A NEW BREED OF SECRET AGENT
xXx
sony.com/TripleX
DIRECTED BY ROB COHEN

*Non-Stop Wide-Screen Action!*

xXx, a new breed of secret agent

After Schwarzenegger and Stallone, comes a new kind of action hero in a new kind of high-adrenaline action-adventure.

Vin Diesel is Xander Cage, a tattooed, buff-to-the-max underground thrill seeker. He is the ultimate Bad Boy... armed with astonishing physical stamina and the attitude to go with it.

After tangling with the law too many times, he is forced to pay his debt to society, going on a dangerous underground mission in Prague.

Recruited by tough veteran agent (SAMUEL JACKSON) of the National Security Agency, Xander must infiltrate a crime ring led by a brutal ex-Russian Army commander.

His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

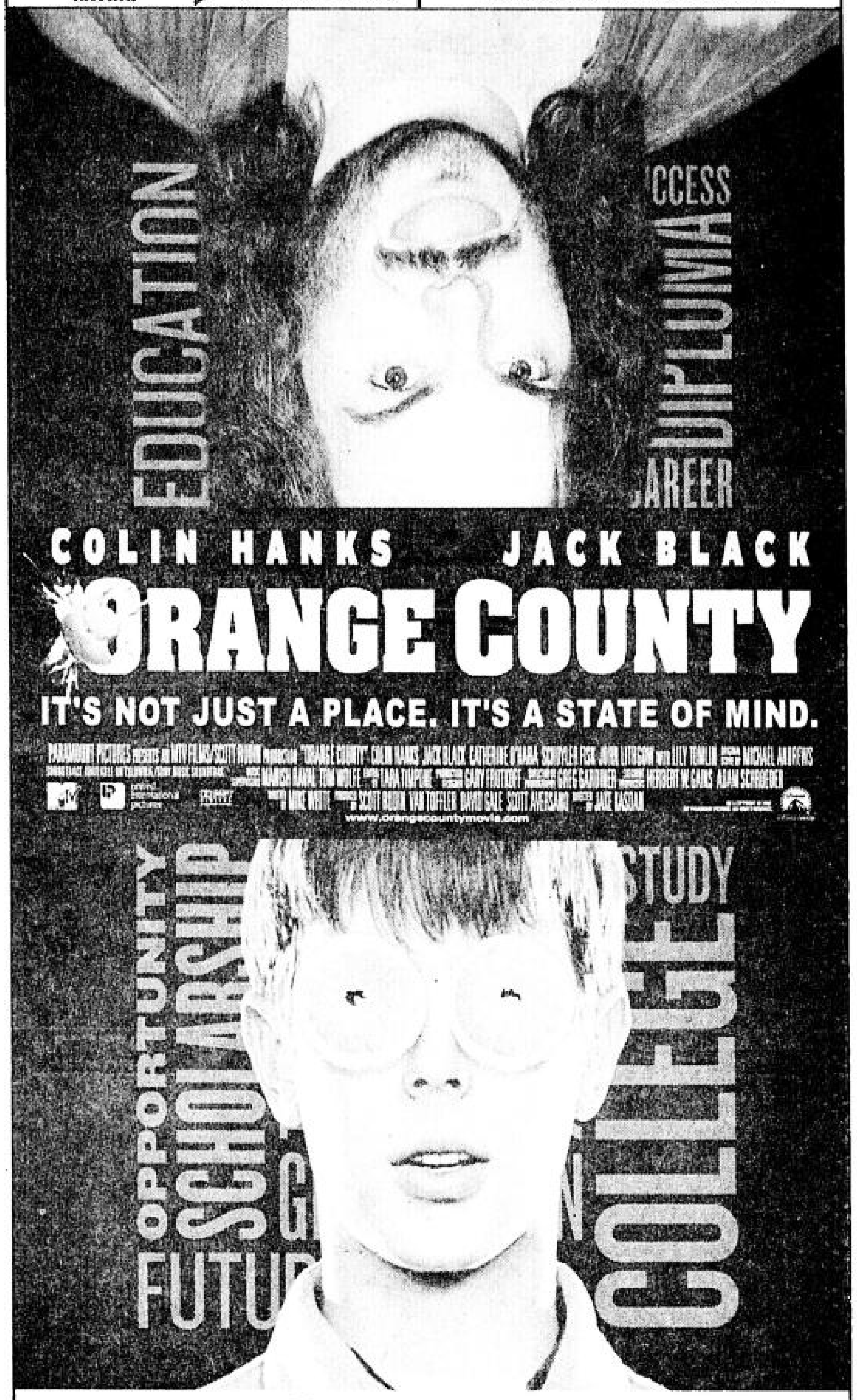
Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season!

Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

Only in Cinemas

NOW ON VIDEO!
SCHWARZENEGGER
A ONE MAN ARMY FIGHTS TERRORISM!
VHS/VCD P325
DVD P895
SCHWARZENEGGER COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE FUGITIVE'

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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DIPLOMA
AREER
COLIN HANKS JACK BLACK
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SCHOLARSHIP
FUTU
STUDY
COLLEGE

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
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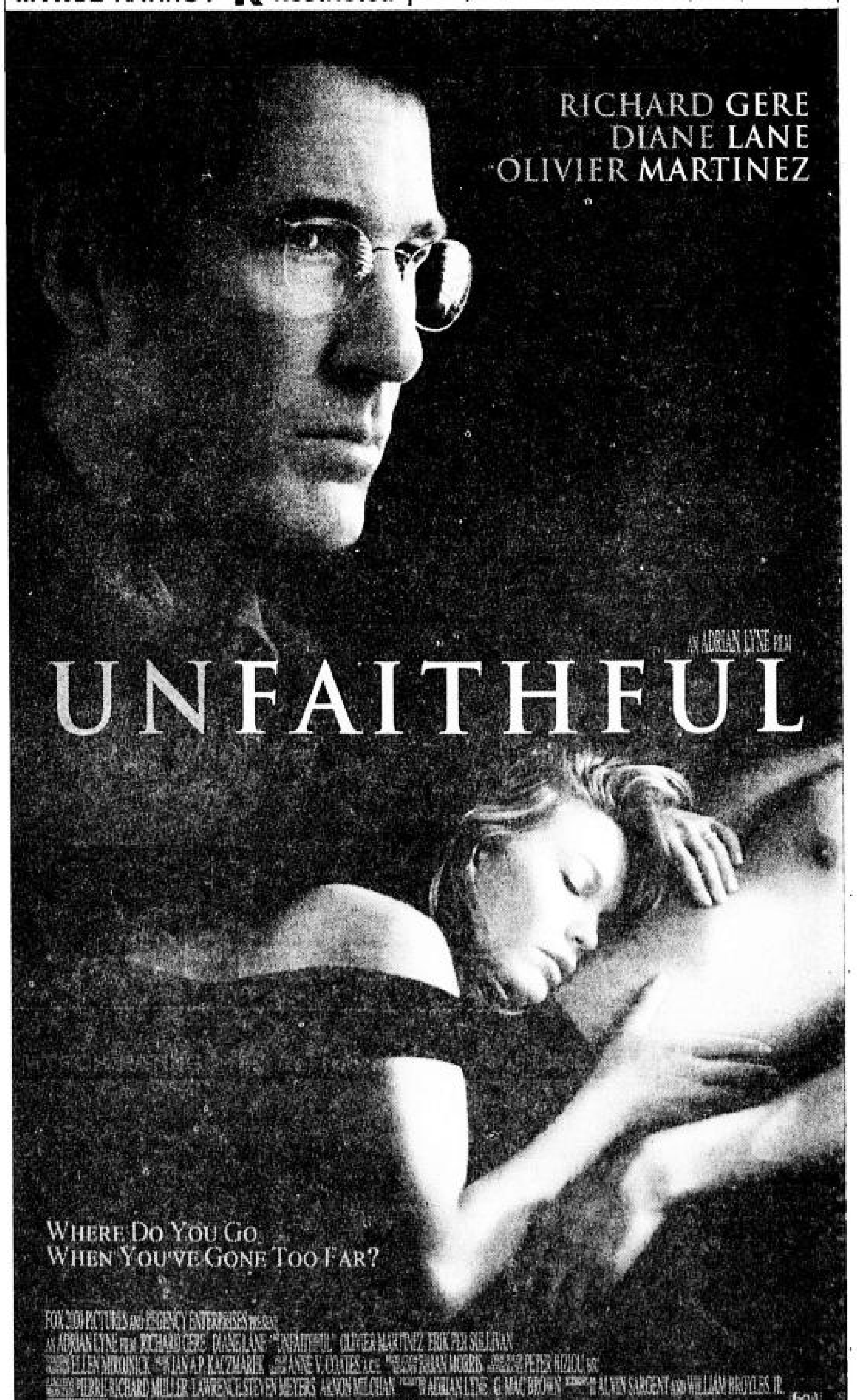
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



RICHARD GERE
DIANE LANE
OLIVIER MARTINEZ
AN ADRIAN LYNE FILM
UNFAITHFUL
WHERE DO YOU GO
WHEN YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR?

Special thanks to
NOW SHOWING

# Oprah economics

From p. A32

Don't buy faddish clothes. Go for the classic look that you can wear for years without going out of fashion.

Invest in real estate when you're young. Decades later, your property will be worth a lot more.

### TV treats

DAILY until Friday, Aug. 19 at 9 p.m., the National Geographic Channel is screening programs about snakes.

Wednesday, Aug. 14, "King Rattler" is about the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. On Thursday, Aug. 15, the show on view is "King Cobra."

And on Friday, Aug. 16, "Big Snake" tells the unusual story of an unemployed poet who learns about a $50,000-award for a snake 30 feet long to be delivered to the Bronx Zoo—an award announced in 1910 by then US President **Theodore Roosevelt**, which has never been claimed!

Thus, the poet sets off for Indonesia and Malaysia to find the snake, bring it to the Bronx Zoo, and collect the long-forgotten reward!

Meanwhile, on Aug. 16 at 9 p.m., Star Movies screens "Here on Earth," a film starring **Josh Hartnett, Leelee Sobieski** and **Chris Klein.** Hartnett and Klein damage the local diner and are ordered to rebuild it. Klein falls for Hartnett's girlfriend (Sobieski). In the end, the three youths learn important lessons about life and themselves.

### Plum role for Eugene Villaluz

EUGENE Villaluz is now in Singapore, rehearsing for the new musical "The Forbidden City," where he plays the challenging and pivotal role of the villain, Prince Tun.

The musical, with book and music by **Dick Lee,** will be performed on Oct. 17, 18 and 19 at the Esplanade, Singapore's new opera house.

This is the second musical that Eugene is doing in Singapore. Less than a year ago, he played the Sheik in "Juda Ben Hur."

How did he get the role of Prince Tun in "The Forbidden City"? Dick Lee caught Eugene's performance with The Company at Singapore's Raffles Hotel earlier this year, was impressed, and asked him to audition. He passed the auditions with flying colors—and the key role was his.

Before "The Forbidden City" opens in Singapore, Eugene will fly back to Manila to appear in "70's 2Day," a concert at Music Museum on Sept. 20 and 21 that will also topbill Eugene's former New Minstrels colleagues **Louie Reyes** and **Ding Mercado,** and Circus Band alumni **Pat Castillo, Tillie Moreno** and **Hajji Alejandro.**

This is the first time that all six veteran singers are performing in a single show.

### Boob-tube boo boos

Quizmaster: What is the basic social unit in the Philippines?

Contestant: Barangay!

(No, the family.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What do you call the drawings in the editorial page of a newspaper?

Contestant: Editorial!

(No, editorial cartoon.)

* * *

Host: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Boy: A surgeon.

Host: Oh? And what does a surgeon do?

Boy: He cuts up people.

Host: What kind of people?

Boy: Rich people!

(From the mouths of babes!)

# Rexona Boys . . .

From p. A30

Fernandez and the Apo Hiking Society.

Tato didn't discover his flair for writing until recently.

"I was surprised to find out I could write," he says. "The book turned out to be the perfect answer for me because I wanted to go back to the entertainment business with a cause, not just to make money. I want to leave a legacy."

Tato heads the non-government organization Entertainment Initiative for Changing Times. He produces and directs the TV program, "Will Your Fortune in the Game of Life," hosted by **George Sison.** It airs on GMA, only on the fifth Sunday of months with five Sundays.

Tato also teaches mass communications at Assumption College.

"I want to come out with telenovelas which are positive, really different from the usual fare we have on TV today," Tato allows. "The advertising world may not give me support, but I'm optimistic that people who believe in my vision will support me."

### Efficient employee

MY FRIENDS and I, who watched "About a Boy" Friday night at the posh Greenbelt 3 Cinemas, would like to commend the efficiency of theater usher **Elgie Jacobe.**

We wanted to catch the 9:10 p.m. screening, so **Ivy, Frederick** and **Iñaki** bought tickets while waiting for me. They were already at the theater lobby when I got there, and we all went inside the cinema.

To our surprise, it was **Heather Graham** on the screen. We had been given tickets to the suspense-drama, "Killing Me Softly."

We got out of there fast. Elgie heard our complaint and he offered to exchange our tickets for tickets to "About a Boy." He dashed down the escalator and was back in a few minutes with the tickets to the **Hugh Grant** starrer.

Elgie even apologized to us for the mix-up. He said sorry again because we couldn't be seated all together since the THX theater was full and it had guaranteed seating.

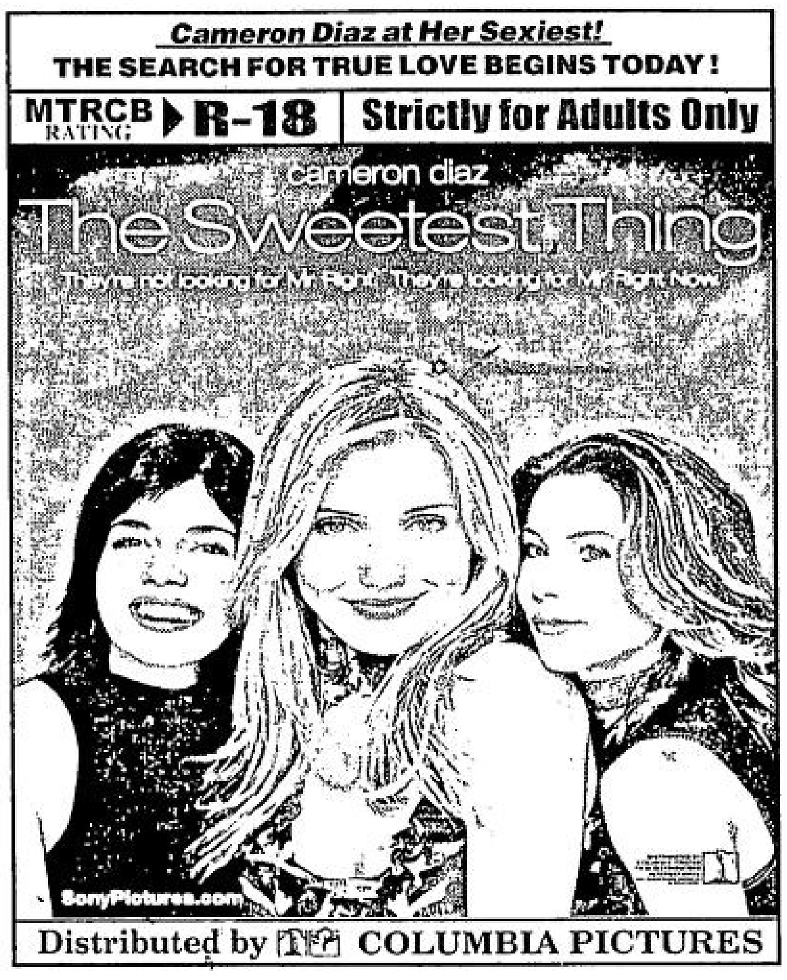
But we didn't mind. Elgie saved us the trouble of going down to the box-office and dealing again with the woman at the ticket booth who made the mistake.

Since we didn't catch the first 20 minutes of the film, Elgie allowed us to get into the next screening at 11:10 so we could complete the movie.

If only all theater ushers were as efficient as Elgie, there'll be more satisfied viewers.

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | D' URAGONS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SWEETEST THING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | ORANGE COUNTRY |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | BIGLANG LIKO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS |
| ODEON | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| ODEON-2 | REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA |
| ROBEN | SAGAD |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | SAGAD |
| REMAR | SAGAD |
| REMAR-2 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAK |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | BIGLANG LIKO |
| B | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| CINEMA-2 | WINDTALKERS |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | ANG GALING GALING MO BABES |
| CINEMA-2 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| CINEMA-3 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | WINDTALKERS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | HIGH EXPLOSIVES |
| CINEMA-6 | D' URAGONS |
| CINEMA-7 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| CINEMA-8 | ABOUT A BOY |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ORANGE COUNTRY |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| CINEMA-12 | SWEETEST THING |
| CINEMA-14 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| CINEMA-15 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-3 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |
| CINEMA-5 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-6 | SELDA |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |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| **ABOUT A BOY**<br>**P13**<br>1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 | **LILO & STITCH**<br>**GP**<br>11:35, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50 | **THE SWEETEST THING**<br>**R18**<br>12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 |
| **ORANGE COUNTRY**<br>**P13**<br>11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:00, 10:05 | **KILLING ME SOFTLY**<br>**R18**<br>12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 | **UNFAITHFUL**<br>**R 18**<br>11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 |

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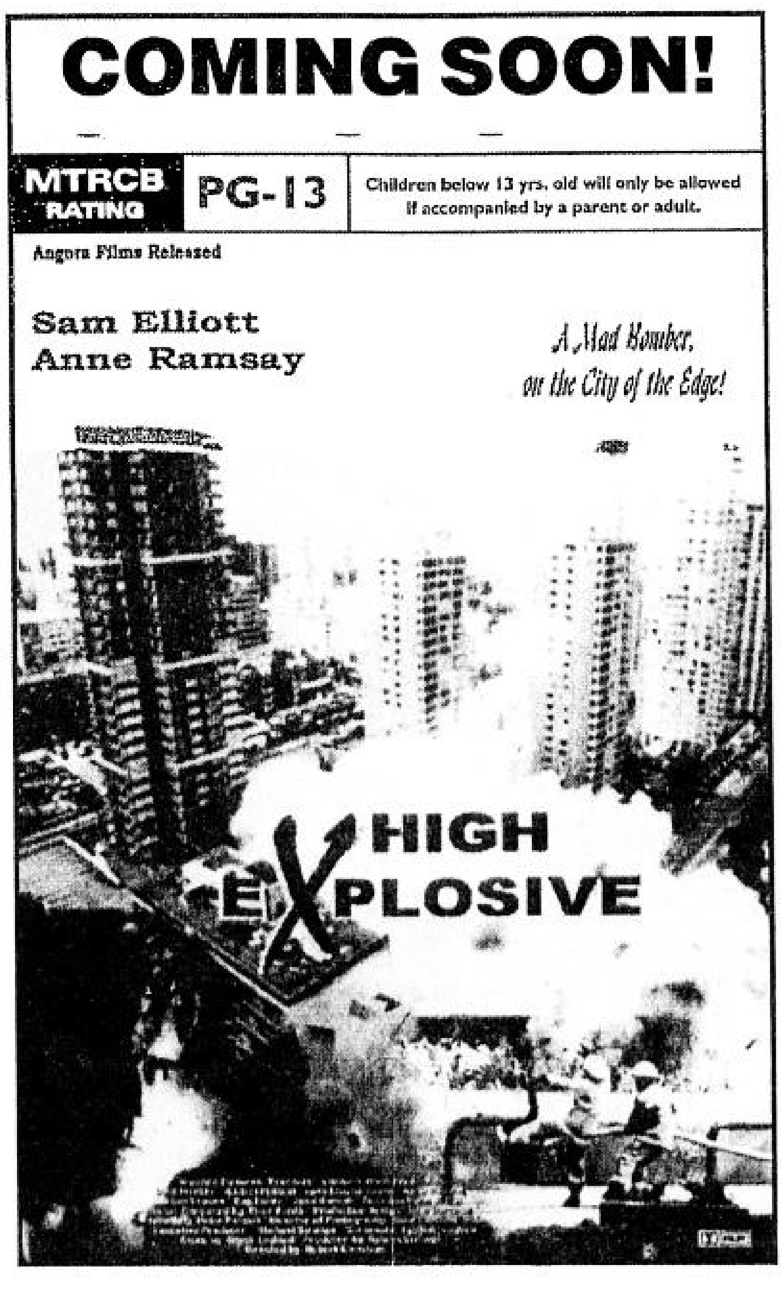
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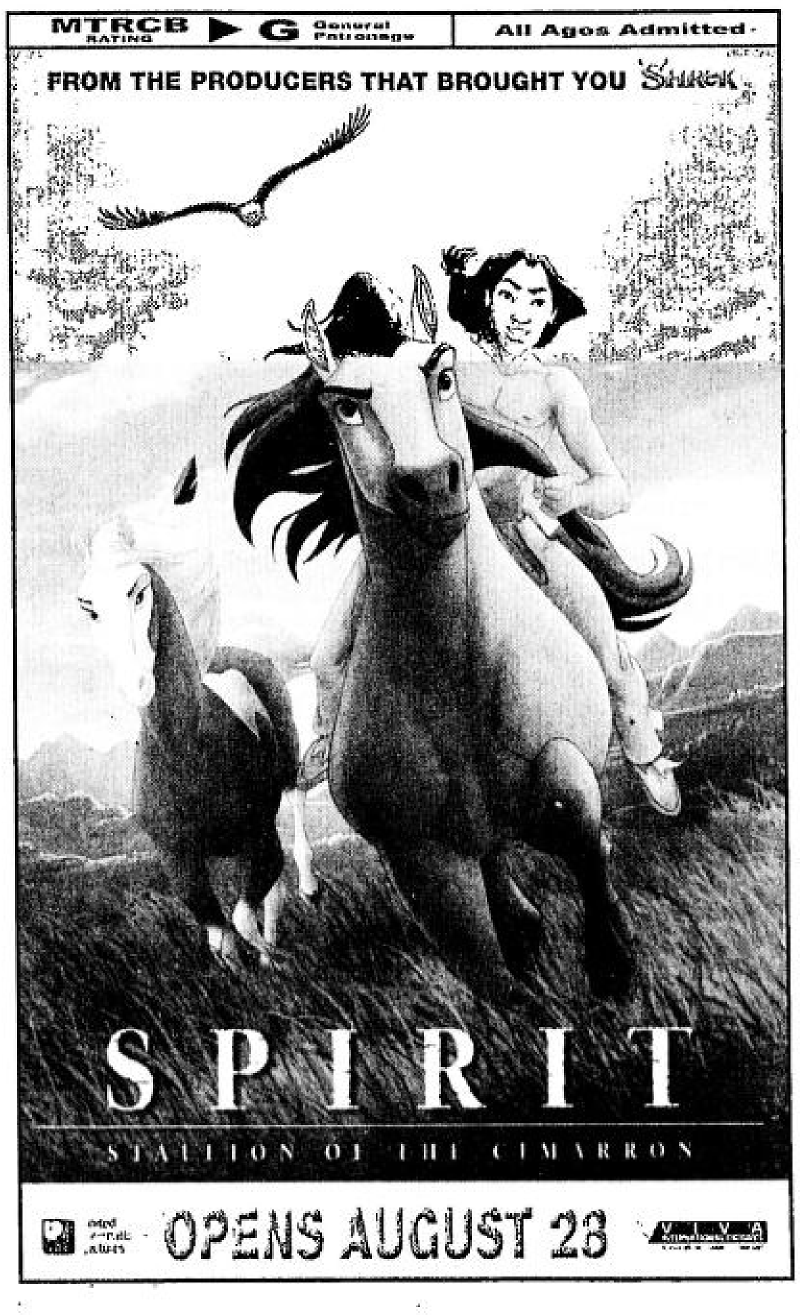
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VIVA

# 'Rexona Boys': How long will the Power last?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN the "Rexona Boys" signed up to do their now-popular TV deodorant commercial, they all thought it was just another job and not a ticket to the big time.

With their good looks and gorgeous bodies, and a lot of luck, the fab five stirred the public imagination as they danced and lip-synched a boy band tune in the TV ad.

ABS-CBN promptly signed them up to a TV contract. They said they got different offers individually, but ABS-CBN was willing to build up all of them as a group.

Their name was changed to Power Boys and some of them have had to adopt a screen name. The group is composed of **Jordan Herrera, Frank Garcia, Geoff Rodriguez, Greg Martin** and **Jay Salas**. They are now regulars on the Saturday edition of the noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

In the past two weeks alone, they had a frenzied schedule of rehearsals, tapings and workshops.

The Power Boys are not worried about comparisons to the other male talents of the network, like The Hunks or Whattamen.

"They are our *kuya* in the business," Frank says. "We respect them and look up to them. We are not out to compete with them."

Jordan is a native of Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Frank is the youngest at 18 but he is one of the more experienced, having done TV and ramp spots in the past four years.

Jay, 21, is the quiet one. "But when I'm with them, we all get *makulit*," he says. A resident deejay in a trendy Manila haunt, he has also been modeling since his early teens. He's also the one in the group who can really carry a tune.

Jay is related to actress **Daria Ramirez** and her son, actor-comedian **Keempee de Leon**.

Geoff, 19, an Australian, is the most ebullient.

Half-Serbian, half-Filipino Greg, 21, is the athlete in the group. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he came to the Philippines only a few months ago to try his hand at modeling. He wants to do great action movies.

**Recording to writing**

WHAT does one do after an early retirement following 25 years of being a recording executive?

If you're **Renato "Tato" Malay**, who comes from a distinguished family of writers, you write a book.

After retiring last April from Sony Music, where he worked for seven years, Tato decided to write a book, "The Seven Universal Principles on How To Become an Entertainment Celebrity," that will help aspiring artists realize their potentials to the fullest.

"It's not a how-to book on becoming popular or making it in the business," Tato points out. "It teaches the artist the importance of committing oneself to the business.

"Look at **Martin Nievera, Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano** or **Pops Fernandez**. They don't just think of the business as a way to make money. They've made it their life."

MALAY

Tato relied on his wealth of experiences in dealing with celebrities—discovering talents, packaging them and finding the right materials for them.

"It's a hit-and-miss thing to develop a talent," Tato explains. "Before you launch someone's recording career, you have to deal with his image and looks, the songs and even the way you will promote him. If you can't reinvent yourself, you won't stay long in the business."

The book sells for P250. "A pre-paid call card is even more expensive," Tato says.

The book contains photos of Tato with the foreign and local celebrities he met through the years, his own 25-year collection since 1976. Included are Tato with Destiny's Child, **Coco Lee, Julia Fordham, Dayanara Torres,** Lea Salonga, **Kris Aquino, Gretchen Barretto, Dina Bonnevie,** Gary Valenciano, Pops

REXONA/ p. A29

POWER Boys

AUGUST 14
WEDNESDAY
Makati Cine Manila 2002 international film festival

CINEMA 1
11:00 LE CLUB des CHOMEURS (Luxembourg) by Andy Bausch
2:00 RING 0 (Japan) by Takeshi Kitano
5:00 HOTEL (UK/Italy) by Mike Figgis
7:00 FRIEND (Korea) by Kwak Kyung Taek
9:10 MEE POK MAN (Singapore) by Eric Khoo
11:00 ADDRESS UNKNOWN (Korea) by Kim Ki Duk

CINEMA 2
11:00 ORPHAN OF ANYANG (China) by Wang Chao
2:00 UNA CASA CON VISTA AL MAR (Venezuela) by Alberto Alvero
5:00 ORPHAN OF ANYANG (China) by Wang Chao
7:00 WATERBOYS (Japan) by Shinobu Yaguchi
9:00 TOPLESS WOMEN TALKS ABOUT THEIR LIVES (New Zealand) by Harry Sinclair
11:00 WEEKEND PLOT (China) by Zhang Ming

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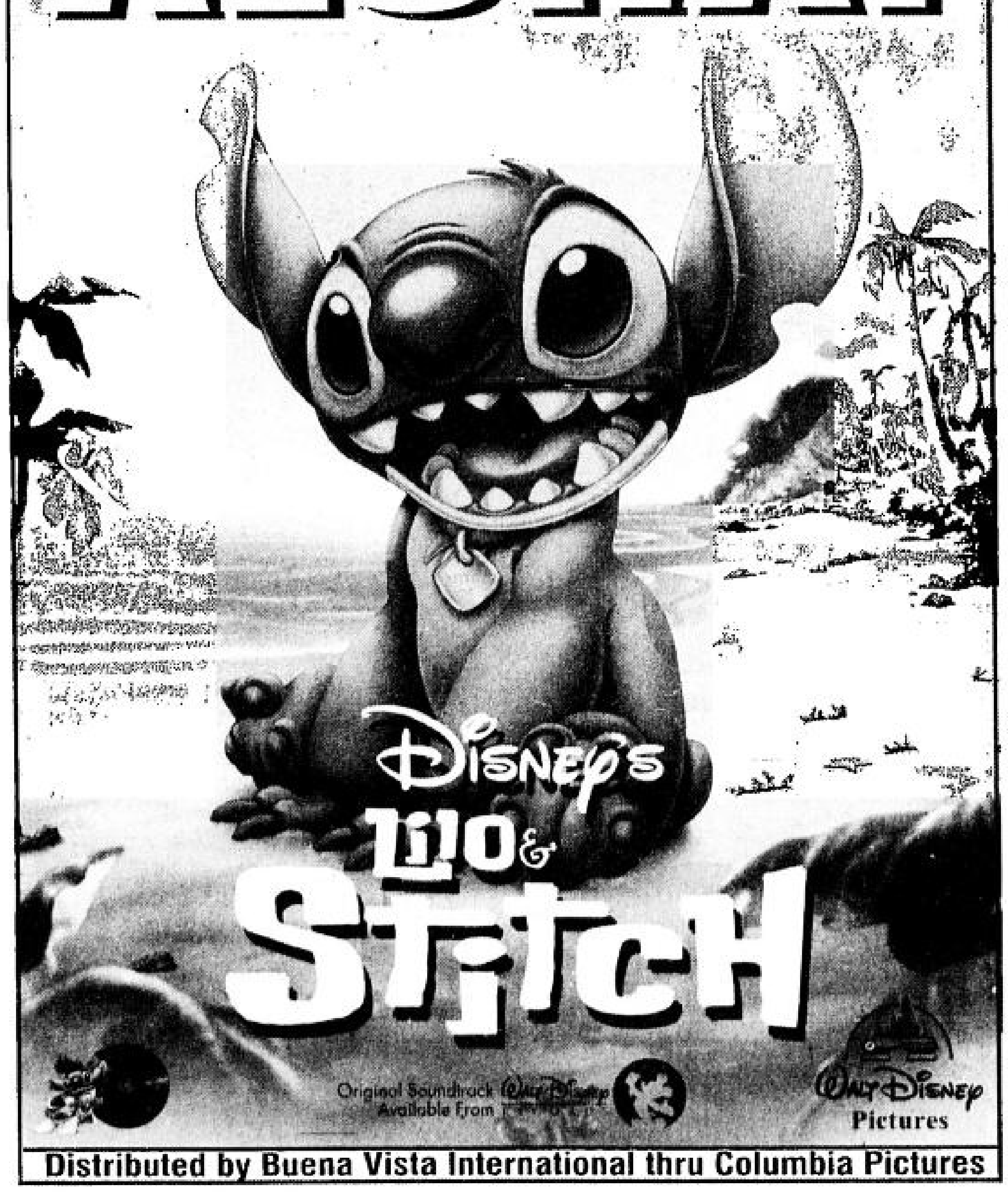

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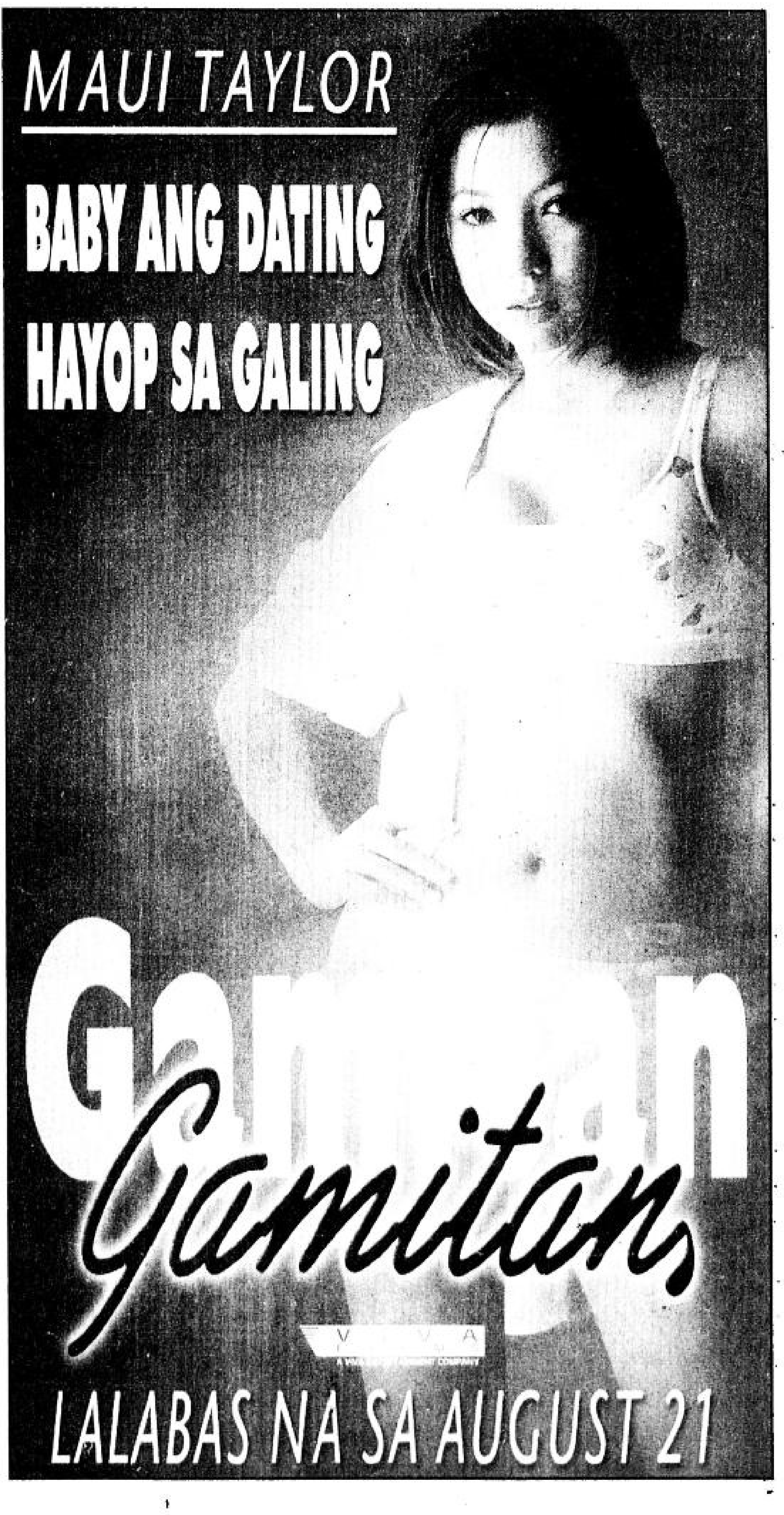

MAUI TAYLOR
BABY ANG DATING
HAYOP SA GALING
Gamitan
VIVA
LALABAS NA SA AUGUST 21

# Big winners a no-show in Silver Aliw

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE "Night of Silver Aliw" at the Philippine Plaza Hotel on Aug. 7 was far from looking silvery because the recipients of two of the most important awards were absent.

Hall of Fame awardee Martin Nievera led the no-shows. His elevation to the Aliw Hall of Fame after winning three Entertainer of the Year citations in 1985, 2000 and 2001 could have been the night's highlight, but Nievera is on a concert tour of the United States.

Nievera also won the Best Major Concert Act award, which the event's host, his former wife Pops Fernandez, accepted for him.

The Apo Hiking Society was to be elevated to the Aliw gallery of distinction for their contributions to live entertainment, but they also failed to attend the show because of prior engagements.

Leah Navarro accepted the special achievement award in behalf of Boboy Garovilo, Danny Javier and Jim Paredes.

### Staying late

The show, set for 7 p. m., started two hours late. It lasted for more than four hours even with only 11 of its 24 winners showing up to collect their awards.

Lani Misalucha stayed late to accept her Entertainer of the Year award. She is only the 12th artist to receive the top plum from the 25-year-old foundation.

Lani was also awarded best female musical performer in music lounges, clubs, bars and restaurants for the third straight year.

Aliw board member Jose Mari Chan received a special achievement award for his contributions to live entertainment as composer, lyricist and performer. Chan has released 11 albums, starred in more than 10 TV specials and composed hit songs.

### Comics, emcees

Also present were Regine Velazquez, who took the Best Concert Act throne from Gary Valenciano this year, and Ogie Alcasid who is best male musical performer for the second straight year.

Allan K and Mitch Valdez went home with the Best Stand-Up Comedy Act awards.

Paolo Bediones was a shoo-in for the Best Emcee award. He was pitted against the less experienced Dingdong Dantes, Bianca Araneta, Calvin Millado and Marc Nelson.

Gabby Eigenmann and Karylle were heralded most promising male and female performers while Jong Cuenco bested three other equally worthy nominees and took home the Best Instrumentalist citation. Kyla and Malik shared this year's Best New Artist award.

Gerard Salonga, best musical director of "The Broadway Concert," accepted the Best Female Major Concert Act citation in behalf of his sister Lea Salonga who is based in New York City.

### Absent bands

Neither Side A nor Freestyle was present to accept the Best Major Group Concert Act award they shared for their "Back 2 Back" concert at the Araneta Coliseum last February.

South Border, also absent, took over Freestyle's position as best musical group performer.

Presenters Radha and Viktoria accepted the Best Concert Stage Director award for Johnny Manahan, who won over Rowell Santiago and Floy Quintos for his work on "Martin XV 4-ever" last February.

No one from the UP Singing Ambassadors and the Quezon City Performing Artists was around to receive their Best Choral Group and Best Cultural Dance Group awards, respectively.

Power Dance won the Best Contemporary Jazz/Pop Group award.

### Power-charged

This year's best stage director, Nonon Padilla ("Aguinaldo 1899: Ang Pagpatay Kay Luna"), best stage actress Irma Adlawan ("One Hundred Songs for Mary Helen Fee") and best stage actor Michael de Mesa ("Proof") did not show up. "Aguinaldo 1899: Ang Pagpatay Kay Luna" was also picked best musical theater production.

The power-charged performances of Janet Basco, Leah Navarro, Cherrie Gil, Aliyah Parcs, Dingdong Avanzado, Bituin Escalante, Carlos Agassi, Kyla, Jed Madella, Roselle Nava, Geneva Cruz, Malik, Karylle and The CompanY made the audience endure the delay, gaps and absences.

Velasquez showed the audience she deserved her Best Concert Act award when she opened the show with a medley of disco tunes from the '70s.

### Judges

Vernie Varga, Tootsie Guevarra, Jessa Zaragoza, Geneva Cruz, Anna Fegi and RJ Rosales paid tribute to '70s pop icons Rey Valera and Rico J. Puno in a production number featuring some of their hits.

Fernandez hosted the show with Franco Laurel, Troy Montero and Marc Nelson.

This year's judges included George Canseco as board chair, presidential adviser on political affairs Joey Rufino, former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz, MTV's Francis Lumen, composer Dero Pedero, Butch Albarracin, Cultural Center of the Philippines Chair Baltazar Endriga, and GMA 7's Rod Cornejo.

**HIT MAN** Jose Mari Chan, special award winner.

Lani is only the 12th artist to receive the top plum from the 25-year-old foundation

**ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR** Lani Misalucha.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

**SHEER ENERGY.** Guest performer Geneva Cruz.

**EXTRA EXPERIENCED.** Best male emcee Paolo Bediones.

**UP AND A WINNER.** Best male stand-up comedy act Allan K.

**ON MY OWN.** Best musical director Gerard Salonga. He also accepted the award for sister Lea.

**FIRST NAME BASIS.** Best new artists Kyla and Malik.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Editor* **Louie C. Camino**

## 'UNFAITHFUL'

# How to cheat on your hubby

**By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

**STYLISHLY HOT.** Richard Gere and Diane Lane in a titillating sex scene in Adrian Lyne's "Unfaithful."

TEMPTATIONS come in many forms, but for a bored housewife trapped in the stodgy domesticity of her suburban lifestyle, an adulterous relationship seems the strongest of them all. At least this is true in the case of Connie Sumner.

Connie (Diane Lane) is living the kind of life many women wouldn't mind having—a quiet married life with a caring, handsome and hardworking husband (Richard Gere) and an adorable son. She has a nice family, a nice home in a peaceful and affluent countryside community, and the freedom to do what she wants.

Connie doesn't have a powerful motivation to stray from her good, solid marriage, yet she has a steamy, lustful and fanatical extramarital affair with, of all people, a stranger.

"Unfaithful" is an interesting look at the contrasting experiences of infidelity, the passion and excitement it could bring as well as its destructive force. As one of Connie's friends says aptly, "Affairs always end disastrously." It's based on Claude Chabrol's 1968 film "La Femme Infidel."

### Better than average

The new film's director Adrian Lyne is certainly not a neophyte when dealing with the theme of infidelity, having directed "Fatal Attraction," the ultimate horror movie for two-timing married men, and "Indecent Proposal," which featured Robert Redford's million-dollar-proposal for a one night stand with Woody Harrelson's wife, Demi Moore.

Lyne and his writers (Alvin Sargent and William Broyles Jr.) are not exploring new territory, adultery being among the more popular subjects in filmmaking. Yet their work is better than average. Connie's transition, from her indecision over having an affair to being a woman who just can't get enough of one, is executed in varying realistic details, ably capturing the tug of war between conscience and desire.

The perspective of marital infidelity in good marriages gives the story some freshness. Connie may be satisfied, even happy with her family, yet there still seems to be something missing in her life.

### Relief and glee

One notices something wrong during a typical weekday as she bustles about the house while her husband and son are preparing for work and school, respectively. She breathes a sigh of relief just as soon as they are out the door. And later as she rides the train going to the city to do some errands, there's even a hint of glee washed over her face.

There's nothing wrong with having some time and space for yourself. In fact, brief separations are probably healthy for most relationships (that's probably why boys' and girls' night-outs were invented). But Francesca of Clint Eastwood's "Bridges of Madison County" and Connie share something more than a need for separation. They are both living passionless lives.

They are both women who have channeled most of their energies, including their romanticism and sex drive, into being good wives and mothers. The sparks are gone in their static lives.

### Cheap romances

Connie isn't aware of it but she's ripe for an affair that could recoup her sense of womanhood. Or perhaps she just wants what she wants. In any case, when she's blown into the arms of a French guy one blustery day while shopping in the city, he senses quickly what she's looking for.

Paul Martel (Olivier Martinez) is one of those guys who seems to have leaped out of the pages of those cheap romantic paperback novels, and his lines are straight from them, too ("There's no such thing as a mistake. There's what you do and what you don't do.").

He looks at Connie with smoldering glances and tries more than once to make a pass at her. He's unsuccessful but she's flattered by the attention and, like a moth attracted to a flame, she starts visiting him at his apartment, first just to talk, and then for other things. Pretty soon he becomes her obsession and she throws caution to the wind.

### Cheating signs

Connie's husband Ed starts suspecting something's amiss, and how could he not? Connie practically writes the book on how to let your husband know you're cheating on him. She carelessly lies to Ed, changes her daily routine, eats with Paul in a popular diner, leaves new and expensive lingerie and pairs of stiletto shoes lying around the bedroom, refuses to be intimate with her husband and even gives Paul a precious memento Ed gave her.

Ed would have been very stupid not to notice, and any average-minded woman would have shown more prudence (but then Connie has fallen for a romance paperback caricature).

Of course there'll be ramifications after the revelation. I would not venture any further in revealing the plot. Just remember that the film is labeled a sex thriller.

### Power of lust

"Unfaithful" is stylishly shot and has some of the most titillating sex scenes since "9 1/2 Weeks," which Lyne also helmed. The lovemaking is graphic and sexy and there's plenty of it, too, although there's not much nudity involved. The filmmakers seem to linger on the sex scenes as if they were an end in themselves, but this is effective in evoking the raw power of forbidden lust.

Lane has played the adulterous wife before in "A Walk on the Moon." The dramaturgy in that film was heavier and she was great in it, too. But this perhaps is a braver performance, what with all the physical daring involved.

She nails the role of a woman undergoing conflicting emotions. When she gives in to Paul's advances, she's a shivering mess of trepidation, excitement, remorse and guilty pleasure. This is Lane's film and I know more than a few guys who would watch it just because of her, guys who've had a crush on her since "Streets of Fire."

Okay, I'm one of them but that doesn't cloud my estimation of Lane's performance. Really.

### Ed and Paul

Gere, who starred with Lane in "The Cotton Club" 18 years ago, is made to look like a plain guy in the film, a tough task even with the spectacles and the dowdy sweaters. Still, he plays plain Ed with heartbreaking vulnerability and acts out a chameleon-like change of character quite credibly. It's hard not to root for Ed whatever he is and does in the film.

Oh, yeah, about the French guy. Martinez is serviceable as the stud and nothing more. Frankly, between Ed and Paul, I don't know what Connie was thinking of. Ethical questions aside, it's a no-brainer. I know a lot of married men who are probably capable of doing what Ed did if their wives' lover is a guy like Paul.

Okay I'm one of them. But that doesn't cloud my estimation of Martinez's performance. Really.

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# Oprah economics

## VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

ON her weekday (on Star World) and weeknight (on Studio 23) program, **Oprah Winfrey** keeps coming up with helpful tips designed to help her viewers empower themselves.

Recently, "Oprah" did a series of shows on money, specifically how to save it and make it multiply. The idea was that sound financial management and planning were important because they would liberate viewers from debt and other monetary woes.

Oprah guested several people with minimal incomes who had become wealthy, beyond similar breadwinners dreams. How did they do it? Read, and learn:

One guest advised young people to start saving now, because through the coming decades, their "small" savings will compound into hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said that he made it a point to save at least $15 every payday, come what may, and he is now a wealthy man.

Another guest said she paid herself 20 percent of her paycheck, before paying for everything else. This was important because it enhanced her self-worth and, with her increased confidence, she worked harder and more creatively, and made more money.

Other tips: Don't leave your house with more than 20 bucks in your pocket. This is a good deterrent to the temptation to buy things on impulse.

Don't spend coins. At the end of the day, collect all of your coins and save them until they're enough to invest in a mutual fund. One guest saved $53,000 worth of coins in 15 years!

Learn the difference between "want" and "need," and spend only on what you *really* need.

Don't touch your savings. Put them in time deposit or invest them.

Take your lunch to work.

Buy less soda and junk food.

Simplify your life. Make people and ideas, not material things, important in your life.

OPRAH/ p. A29

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# BUSINESS

*Editor* **Raul O. Marcelo** ◆ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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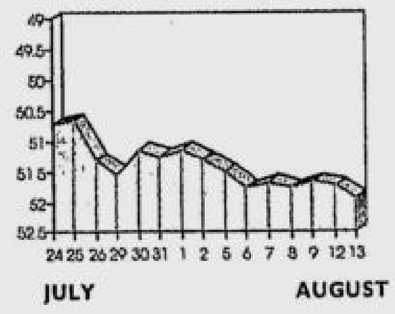
## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

**PESO - DOLLAR**



**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

₱ 51.95 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2002

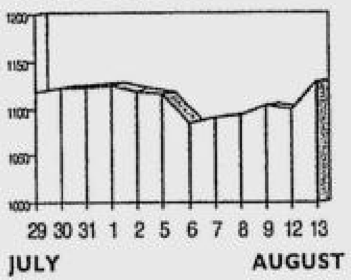
¥ 119.24 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2002

**GOLD: $314.35/314.85**
per ounce Hong Kong,
Aug. 13, 2002

### STOCK MARKET

## Share prices rise 2.7%

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



*(See stock market report on Page B2)*

SHARE prices surged 2.7 percent yesterday due to bargain-hunting mainly in blue chips, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchang composite index gained 29.58 points to 1,128.16.

"There was bargain-hunting ir blue chips, including PLDT, whic has been sold down for the past few months," said Mike Ordinanz of PCI Capital Corp.

Turnover rose to 283.62 million shares worth P367.71 million from 197.54 million shares worth P250.89 million on Monday. *AFP*

# 7-month budget gap estimated at ₱130B

By Clarissa S. Batino

**WEAK revenue collection has pushed the government's budget deficit in July to its full-year target of P130 billion, leaving the economic managers no other choice but to cut spending aggressively in the remaining five months of the year.**

A government source said the emerging deficit figure for the first seven months ranged from P126 billion to as much as P130 billion.

The budget deficit, a significant measure of the government's economic performance, swelled to P119.7 billion from January to June and exceeded the first-semester target of P78.26 billion by about 150 percent and its deficit of P77.82 billion a year ago by 53.84 percent.

In July, the source said the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected about P30.5 billion against an original target of P38 billion.

But the source pointed out that owing to the adjustment of the BIR's programmed collection for the year, the target of the internal revenue agency was reduced to P31 billion, which meant that its shortfall for the month was only about P500 million.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said in an earlier interview that spending had slowed down to about P49 billion in July from an average of about P60 billion a month from January to June.

Despite the obvious difficulty in meeting the programmed deficit this year, the economic team led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was keeping the P130-billion target.

The technical working group of the DBCC had earlier recommended a revision of the fiscal gap target to P158-P163 billion for 2002.

Another government official pointed out that while the economic team had revised the full-year collection targets of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs, the programmed fiscal gap was maintained at P130 billion.

"The refusal of the economic managers to formalize the revisions in the targets of the BIR and the Customs this year was causing a dissonance in the fiscal numbers. While on one hand we could say that the BIR almost met its target, on the other, we would have to admit a higher deficit to which we have nobody to blame," the source said.

Internally, the Development Budget Coordinating Committee has adjusted the programmed collection of the BIR and the Customs.

From a target of P447.556 billion, the target of the BIR was adjusted to a range of P413-P422 billion while that of Customs was brought down to P99.6 billion or by P15.526 billion from P115.126 billion.

During the first six months, the BIR and Customs incurred a collection shortfall of P33.46 billion and P9.11 billion.

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Ford Balintawak, EDSA cor Seminary Road, Balintawak, Quezon City; Trunk Line 927-9648, Fax No 927-5981
Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277
Ford EDSA, 29 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila; Trunk Lines 726-7181 to 85, Fax No : 723-6311
Ford Bacolod, Araneta St., Barangay Singcang, Bacolod City; Telefax No (034) 434-2877
Ford Libis, 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No 637-6008
Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor P. Burgos St., Cebu City 6000, Trunk Line (032) 253-0453; Fax No (032) 253-0429
Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231; Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No 815-0513
Ford Iloilo, Dwerson Road, Bakhaw Mandurriao, Iloilo City Tel No (033) 321-3351 to 52, Fax No (033) 321-3351
Ford Quezon Avenue, Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street, Quezon City; Tel nos 732-3943 / 732-3945, Fax No 742-3451
Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; Tel No (082) 234-1111, Fax No (082) 234-2222

See posters and flyers for details *Promo extended until August 31, 2002. Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1067 Series of 2002

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- Marc Ablaza, *Baguio*

DIESEL MAX
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# Roco + Kapunan

## COCKTALES

*Victor C. Agustin*

NOTHING should now come in between Raul Roco and Lorna Kapunan, as far as pecking order in their law firm, with lawyer Jose Buñag bitterly dropping out of the partnership (and Roco resigning from the Macapagal-Arroyo Cabinet).

Thus Roco, Buñag, Kapunan & Migallos Law Offices should henceforth be called Roco Kapunan & Migallos, unless some other associate gets promoted to fill up the new void.

Although Buñag denies it, Cocktales has gathered from Buñag's colleagues that it was indeed a squabble over profits that prompted the Atenean bar topnotcher to leave his long-time partners and set up instead his own shop.

Buñag is said to be an expert in corporate law and taxation, which could help explain why the Roco Buñag law firm obtained monthly retainership with the Bangko Sentral while Roco was chair of the Senate committee on banks and financial institutions.

Roco's firm obtaining a retainer from Bangko Sentral while the senator was chair of the Senate banking committee?

This should be a great topic for Lorna Kapunan the next time she hits the lecture-TV talk show circuit to advance her latest crusade, corporate governance.

### Ill-starred Madrigals

THE REPORT about the unpaid liabilities of the Madrigal-controlled, but now shuttered Stars restaurant (Cocktales, Aug. 12, 2002) prompted an e-mail from Francisco Bayot, whose mother happens to be, if we get our peerage correctly, another Madrigal.

"There are seven branches which make up the Madrigal family (seven children of Don Vicente Madrigal)," wrote Bayot. "Susana (third generation) belongs to one of the seven families. The other branches had nothing to do with her 'ill-starred' restaurant."

"Please qualify your statements and in her case quantify her debts."

It was Doña Chito Madrigal-Collantes, one of the seven children of Don Vicente, who was said to have backstopped favorite niece Susana and husband, investment banker Jose Armando Eduque, and provided the seed money for the now-bankrupt Stars in Glorietta.

### San Francisco crossing

TAIPAN John Gokongwei is passing by San Francisco this week after holidaying in Canada with retired Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson.

PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr., incidentally, is also in the Bay Area for his regular throat treatment.

There is absolutely no meeting planned or arranged between Mr. John and TonyBoy in the City by the Bay, according to the pro-Gokongwei grapevine.

But then again, who knows if the two would accidentally cross paths.

After San Francisco, Mr. John is proceeding to Singapore, where retired Indonesian tycoon Soedono Salim lives, to attend a board meeting of Singapore Land.

### Unpacified and planned

ANOTHER top executive of Pacific Plans, senior vice president Luciano Abia III, has joined the exodus of retirees from the Yuchengco pre-need company.

In addition to Abia, Benigno Zialcita (chief operating officer), Norman Gonzalez (executive vice president), and Manuel Reyes (first VP, not SVP as earlier reported) chose to retire from their career positions at Pacific Plans, with Gonzalez joining another pre-need firm, Asian Diamond Plans.

### Heard through the grapevine

ALARMED by the continuing rise in workers' wages and the militancy of the labor unions amid tough business conditions, Unilever is now making noises about transferring the bulk of its soap and detergent business to Thailand.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# ABS-CBN posts ₱208-M profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. of the Lopez family posted a net income of P207.82 million in the first half of this year or 77 percent lower than the P900.88 million recorded during the same period last year.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, ABS-CBN reported that gross airtime revenue for the period fell 15 percent to P4.05 billion from P4.758 billion while expenses grew by 13 percent to P4.22 billion from P3.73 billion.

ABS-CBN attributed the growth in operating expenses principally to depreciation costs, which rose 66 percent to P757 million as the company's new broadcast complex, the Eugenio Lopez Communications Center, started operations in the fourth quarter of last year.

The company also pointed out that gross revenue was down because of the absence of government and political airtime revenue that boosted advertising spending last year.

The company also reported that net sales and services went up 9 percent to P1.4 billion from P1.3 billion largely because of improved sales of Star Records, ABS-CBN Interactive and from new subsidiary Creative Programs Inc.

In line with this, the leading broadcast firm's income from operations plunged to P482.89 million from P1.41 billion.

For second quarter, ABS-CBN reported that profit amounted to P204 million, far better than the P3.8 million registered in the first quarter of this year.

Nevertheless, the profit was 57.5 percent lower than the P480.7 million recorded during the same period last year.

"Results of the second quarter indicate an improving trend in industry advertising spending. Accordingly, the company's advertising minutes in the second quarter was higher by 31 percent compared to the first quarter 2002," ABS-CBN said.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 14, 2002

| CLUB | BUYER | SELLER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino) | 1,500,000 | 1,600,000 |
| Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner) | Please Call | 1,700,000 |
| Baguio Country Club | 680,000 | 750,000 |
| Calatagan Golf Club "A" | - | 85,000 |
| Calatagan Golf Club "B" | - | 110,000 |
| Camp John Hay | Please Call | 260,000 |
| Canlubang | - | 600,000 |
| Canyonwoods | - | Please Call |
| Capitol Hills | 105,000 | 115,000 |
| Celebrity Sports Club | 170,000 | 180,000 |
| Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | Please Call |
| Eastridge "A" | - | 150,000 |
| Evercrest "A" | - | 100,000 |
| Forest Hills "A" | 210,000 | 220,000 |
| Forest Hills "B" | - | 250,000 |
| Forest Hills "C" | - | 270,000 |
| Makati Sports Club "A" | - | 260,000 |
| Makati Sports Club "B" | Please Call | 300,000 |
| Manila Golf (Corporate) | 11,750,000 | 12,500,000 |
| Manila Golf (Individual) | 11,000,000 | Please Call |
| Manila Polo | Please Call | 2,800,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 600,000 | 640,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | Please Call | 730,000 |
| Metropolitan Club "A" | - | 120,000 |
| Metropolitan Club "B" | - | 160,000 |
| Montemar (Individual) | 30,000 | 40,000 |
| Montemar (Corp) | 50,000 | - |
| Mt. Malarayat (Individual) | - | 330,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | Please Call |
| Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C" | - | Please Call |
| Puerto Azul | - | 125,000 |
| Punta Fuego | - | Please Call |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 180,000 | 220,000 |
| Riviera Golf & Country Club "A" | - | Please Call |
| Rockwell | 350,000 | 450,000 |
| Sherwood Hills "A" | - | 100,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,600,000 | 1,750,000 |
| Sta. Elena "B" | - | 2,100,000 |
| Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate) | - | 280,000 |
| Subic Bay Yacht (Individual) | - | 170,000 |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 390,000 | 430,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 800,000 | 875,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 750,000 | 800,000 |
| The Country Club | Please Call | Please Call |
| Valle Verde (Individual) | 145,000 | - |
| Valley Golf | 300,000 | 340,000 |
| Wack-Wack Golf Club | Please Call | 7,300,000 |

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alabang "A" | 25,000 | Mt. Malarayat | 20,000 |
| Calatagan "A" | 10,000 | Orchard "A" | 30,000 |
| Canlubang | 60,000 | Riviera "A" | 15,000 |
| Eagleridge | 15,000 | Sta. Elena | 60,000 |
| Eastridge "A" | 20,000 | Tagaytay CC | 20,000 |
| Forest Hills | 30,000 | Tagaytay Golf | 45,000 |
| Manila Southwoods | 20,000 | Tagaytay Mid | 35,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 25,000 | Valley Golf | 20,000 |
| Mimosa Golf | 25,000 | Wack-Wack | 90,000 |

For more information, please call:
ALABANG 8508223 • Fax 7721817 • Mobile 0917-8408231
MAKATI 8401761• Fax 8943021 / 7507894 • Mobile 0917-8408207
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
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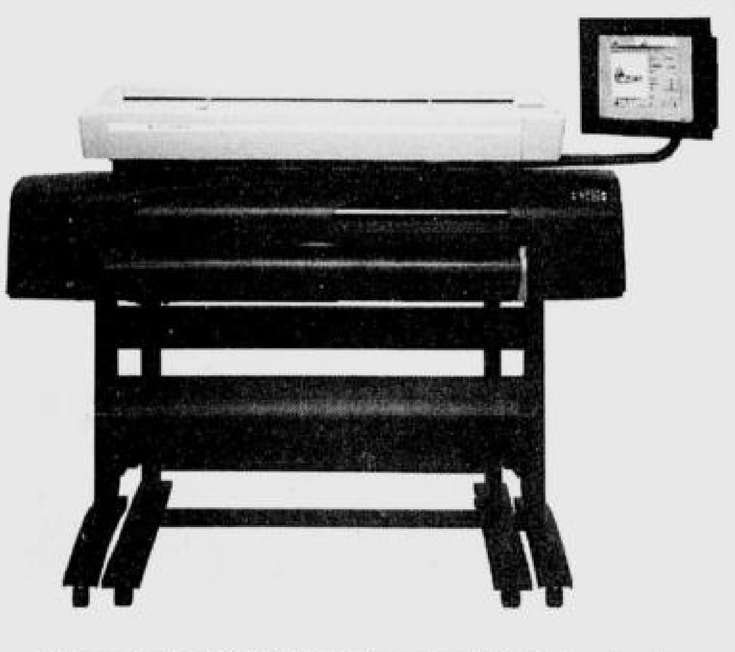

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| Designjet 1055CM+ | 40,000.00 |
| Designjet 500 24" | 6,100.00 |
| Designjet 500 42" | 8,600.00 |
| Designjet 500PS 24" | 7,300.00 |
| Designjet 500PS 42" | 10,000.00 |
| Designjet 800 24" | 14,000.00 |
| Designjet 800 42" | 17,000.00 |
| Designjet 800PS 24" | 18,000.00 |
| Designjet 800PS 42" | 21,000.00 |
| Designjet 5000 42" | 52,000.00 |
| Designjet 5000PS 42" | 66,000.00 |
| Designjet 5000 60" | 81,000.00 |
| Designjet 5000PS 60" | 100,000.00 |
| Designjet cc800PS | 119,000.00 |

Promo period: July 24 to October 31, 2002

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- Endusers can claim their rebates from the reseller together with P500 gift certificate after delivery of the old plotter.
- Accounts with Big Deal/Global discounts are not eligible for the promo.
- Promo is not valid in conjunction with other hp Designjet promos.
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## DISCLOSURES

**CENTRAL Azucarera de Tarlac** denied having any information that could explain the unusual movement in the trading of its securities.

***

**GLOBE Telecom Inc.** reminded holders of its outstanding 9.75-percent Senior Notes due 2012 issued on April 4, 2002 that the exchange offer will expire at 5 p.m., New York time on Aug. 16, 2002 unless the company extends it.

***

**A.BROWN Co. Inc.** bought 20,000 of its own shares at P0.45 per share.

***

**BOGO-Medellin Milling Co. Inc.** disclosed the resignation of Romeo Ledesma as director of the company effective immediately.

***

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange indefinitely suspended trading of the shares of **Picop Resources Inc.** following the cessation of the company's corporate life as stated in the letter provided to the Exchange by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

***

**KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc.** announced the resignation of Ramon Abejuela as director of the company.

***

THE BOARD of **Abotiz Equity Ventures Inc.** approved a program to buy back the shares of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, August 13, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 16 | 16 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 368,300 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 43.5 | 45.5 | 43.5 | 44.5 | 769,500 |
| China Banking Corp. | 600 | 610 | 600 | 610 | 250 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 29.5 | 31 | 29.5 | 30.5 | 490,600 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 35.5 | 36 | 35 | 35.5 | 536,500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 100 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 1,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 18 | 18.25 | 18 | 18.25 | 62,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 48,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1225 | 1225 | 1225 | 1225 | 50 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 930 | 930 | 925 | 925 | 1,170 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | | 21.5 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.75 |
| 43,800 | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.55 | 0.57 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 19,600,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 480 | 500 | 480 | 500 | 8,290 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 1,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.023 | 0.025 | 0.023 | 0.025 | 1,200,000 |
| Piltel | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 50,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 285 | 302.5 | 285 | 297.5 | 229,200 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 2,300,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.75 | 100,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 29 | 29.5 | 29 | 29.5 | 992,700 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.66 | 1.7 | 1.66 | 1.7 | 2,626,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 232,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.42 | 2.46 | 2.42 | 2.46 | 489,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 230,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 30,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.22 | 2.22 | 75,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13 | 13.25 | 13 | 13 | 230,300 |
| La Tondeña Distillers, Inc. | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 8,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 250,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 48.5 | 49 | 48.5 | 49 | 542,100 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 53.5 | 54.5 | 53.5 | 54 | 244,500 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 1,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5,962,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.28 | 2.32 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 1,683,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 500,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 5,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 17,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 8,440,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 80,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 200,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 10,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 12 | 12.5 | 12 | 12.25 | 1,460,400 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 300,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.65 | 342,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 215,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.6 | 0.61 | 0.6 | 0.61 | 4,320,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 10,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.245 | 0.25 | 0.245 | 0.25 | 1,000,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 10,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 260,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.29 | 0.3 | 0.28 | 0.3 | 90,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 100,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 21.75 | 22 | 21.75 | 22 | 464,200 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 2,976,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 200,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 2,350,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,300,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.78 | 1.8 | 4,300,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 10,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 20,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 27,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.032 | 0.033 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 1,000,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 10,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 4,893,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 100,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 1,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 370,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 400,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 200,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 100,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 2,279,470 | 76,370,905.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 60,945,790 | 236,067,745.00 |
| PRO | 17,086,000 | 54,318,500.00 |
| Mining | 1,870,000 | 251,600.00 |
| OIL | 200,100,000 | 570,000.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 282,281,260 | 367,578,750.00 |

| AVERAGES | | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 448.51 | UP 8.32 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,547.72 | UP 34.20 |
| PRO | 520.90 | UP 21.21 |
| Mining | 1,110.96 | DOWN 23.69 |
| OIL | 1.35 | DOWN 0.02 |
| All Shares Index | 645.63 | UP 1.59 |
| Composite | 1,128.16 | UP 29.58 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 40; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 18; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,875

## CURRENCIES

Aug. 13, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.021555 | 1.000000 | 51.6120 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008583 | 0.008402 | 0.4336 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.565737 | 1.532700 | 79.1057 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.130970 | 0.128207 | 6.6170 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.683908 | 0.669478 | 34.5531 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.649184 | 0.635486 | 32.7987 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.580627 | 0.568376 | 29.3350 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.550704 | 0.539084 | 27.8232 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.709839 | 2.652661 | 136.9091 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.272415 | 0.266667 | 13.7632 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.577705 | 0.565515 | 29.1874 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000115 | 0.000113 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024259 | 0.023747 | 1.2256 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.278156 | 0.272287 | 14.0533 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000858 | 0.000840 | 0.0434 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.978900 | 50.5230 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.282197 | 0.276243 | 14.2575 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.329534 | 0.322581 | 16.6491 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134592 | 0.131752 | 6.8000 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021046 | 0.020602 | 1.0633 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.268866 | 0.263193 | 13.5839 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.102943 | 0.100771 | 5.2010 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.472767 | 0.462792 | 23.8856 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.134025 | 0.131197 | 6.7713 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017026 | 0.016667 | 0.8602 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.098184 | 0.096112 | 4.9605 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.107982 | 0.105704 | 5.4556 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.019874 | 0.019455 | 1.0041 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030385 | 0.029744 | 1.5351 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000749 | 0.000733 | 0.0378 |

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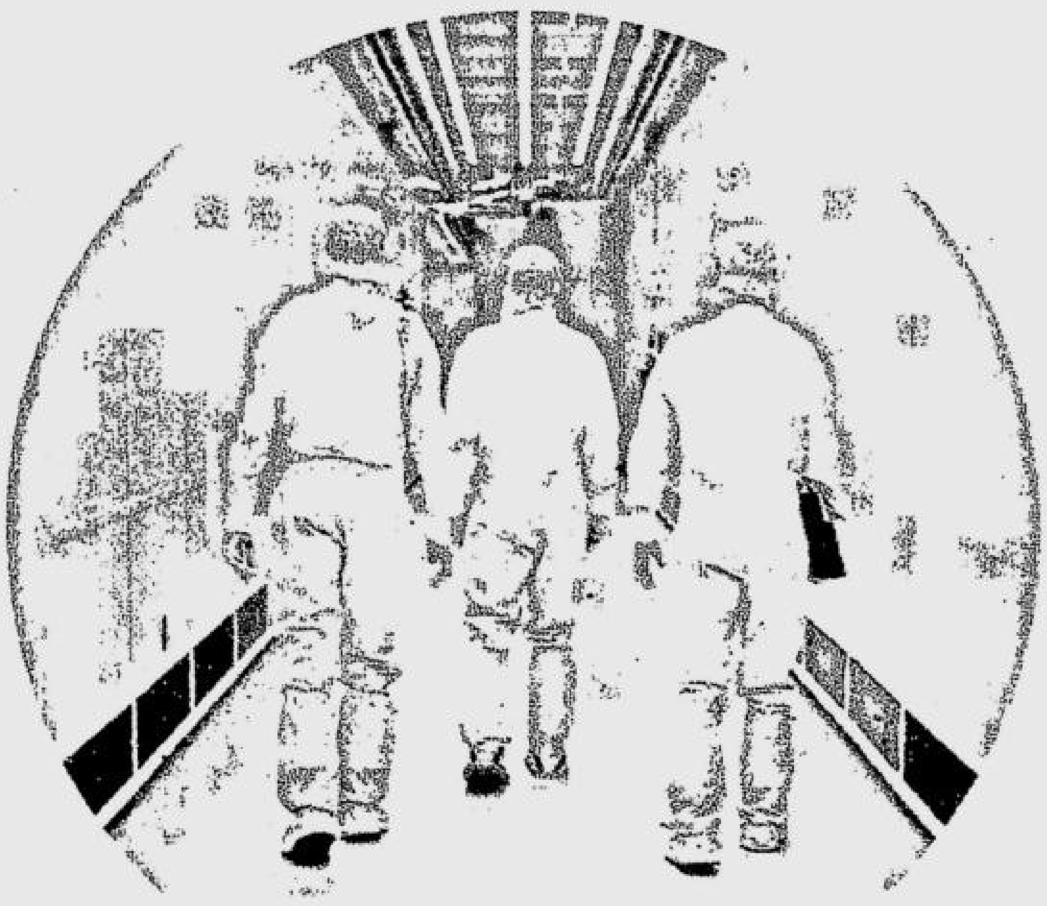

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### VEHICLE TAX COMPUTATION

# DTI seen adopting flexible price index

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is planning to adopt a flexible price index in its proposed vehicle tax reforms that will allow the automatic revision of the tax brackets to reflect fluctuations in the foreign exchange rate.

This was part of the compromise solution being dangled by the DTI to local vehicle assemblers who were sharply divided over the government's move to shift the vehicle tax system from engine to value-based taxation.

A source said the DTI had told members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. that the government wanted to reach a common ground with industry players on the shift to price-based taxation before endorsing the vehicle tax reform as a priority measure to Congress.

The government apparently was worried that without full industry support, the proposed vehicle tax reform bill might face rough sailing in Congress. The government is looking at the tax reform as a means to jack up revenues to solve the budget deficit.

Part of the DTI's plan to assuage opponents of the value-based tax system was to endorse an automatic adjustment in the price index in case of sharp foreign exchange fluctuations.

The source said that the majority of assemblers were opposed to a rigid price index because foreign exchange fluctuations would only push vehicle units to a higher tax bracket. For example, a car worth P600,000 and charged a 3-percent tax would have to pay higher tax of 10 percent if its price would go higher than P600,000 or 25 percent if it would increase beyond P1 million due to the depreciation of the peso. The DTI had adopted a price index in order to ensure that lower priced vehicles would get the least taxes.

The DTI is currently drawing up an automatic review process that would adjust the tax brackets in response to the peso, dollar, yen and Euro fluctuations.

The source said the majority of the assemblers opposed to the value-based tax system could change their minds if the DTI would adopt a flexible price index.

The latest index proposed by the Department of Finance is 3 percent for vehicles worth P600,000 and below; 10 percent for vehicles worth between P601,000 and P1 million; 25 percent for vehicles worth P1.001 million and P1.5 million; 40 percent for vehicles worth P1.501 million and P2 million; and 100 percent for vehicles worth more than P2 million.

Vehicles are currently taxed based on engine displacement—15 percent for 1600 cc gas and 1800 cc diesel engines; 35 percent for 2- liter gas and 2.3-liter diesel engines; 50 percent for 2.7-liter and 3-liter diesel engines, and 100 percent for 2.7-liter and 3-liter diesel engines.

The vehicle tax reforms were triggered by the lobbying of Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. which claimed that its big-engine vehicles were discriminated under the current tax structure.

# DOTC readies maritime industry dev't program

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications is proposing the establishment of special economic zones exclusively for shipbuilding and ship repair facilities.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement yesterday that the proposed special economic zones would cater to both domestic and foreign vessels.

Also, the DOTC is set to submit shortly to Congress a proposed bill, dubbed as the Ship Repair and Shipbuilding Development Act, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of the local shipping industry.

The proposed bill, according to Mendoza, calls for the creation of a Maritime Equity Fund that will help shipyards improve their services.

The fund will be used to finance the creation and training of a manpower pool to be composed of Filipino shipbuilders and seafarers.

Mendoza said he would propose the granting of tariff exemption for the raw material and capital equipment importation of the shipping industry. This, he said, was aimed at encouraging local shipbuilders to use world-class equipment and supplies.

"The Philippines should have its own shipbuilding and ship repair facilities to lessen its dependence on foreign countries for our requirements," he said.

MENDOZA

He also pointed out that the country's extensive coastlines and deep harbors made it an ideal place for shipbuilding and repair.

"We should have the political will to improve our maritime industry to make it globally competitive," he said.

# FDC disputes insider trade raps

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

FACING charges of insider trading, the Gotianuns' Filinvest Development Corp. said it did not gain anything from the sale of the shares of its housing subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc.

FDC also stressed that it had resorted to the sale of those shares only to help FLI retire a $100-million bond that matured last February.

Responding to a letter from the Securities and Exchange Commission, FDC legal counsel Estelito Mendoza admitted that the company sold a little over P100 million worth of FLI shares when the said shares were rising early this year.

However, he stressed that the sale was intended to provide additional funds to enable FLI to meet bond obligations that matured on Feb. 8, 2002. "When FDC sold FLI shares, it did not possess material information which had not been disclosed."

"The sale of FLI shares was in the exercise of corporate authority and in discharge of its corporate responsibility to maintain the financial stability of FLI and to protect shareholder value," he said.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, FDC president Josephine Gotianun Yap also said FDC did not buy back any number of shares.

"FDC did not make any gain from the sale. It even incurred a financial loss from the sale but the loss is secondary to our maintaining a strong credit track record," Yap said.

"We are very proud of the fact that both FDC and FLI have successfully retired a total of $250 million in convertible bonds under a challenging economic scenario."

Yap said the prompt payment of the bond obligations was the "overriding event" that had influenced shareholder value.

After the prompt settlement of the bond obligation, she noted that FLI share price rose to P3.10, or way above the share prices prior to the disclosure and payment of the bonds.

"We are hopeful that the SEC will appreciate FDC's actions to protect shareholder value and with the information we have now provided, recognize that the discharge of our corporate responsibility does not constitute insider trading," Yap said.

# Jollibee posts 26.6% net profit hike

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. reported yesterday that its net income grew 26.6 percent in the second quarter of the year to P296 million from a year earlier on strong retail sales from various brands.

In a news statement, Jollibee chair and chief executive Tony Tan Caktiong said the company's system-wide retail sales rose 14 percent from April to June, driven by its flagship brand, "Jollibee." It also got support from two other brands, "Chowking" and "Greenwich."

Tan Caktiong said its strong second-quarter performance brought Jollibee's first-half net earnings to P494 million, up 9.6 percent year-on-year, on the back of P13 billion in system-wide retail sales.

"Cost containment initiatives implemented across our system have been able to offset increases in fuel, utility and labor costs," he reported.

"With the healthy business growth during the quarter, an improvement in margin levels compared with that of last year has been delivered, and this has resulted in the significant increase in operating profits, bringing our business back on track to achieving our profits objectives for 2002," he added.

In an investors' briefing, Jollibee chief financial officer Jose Miguel Navarette said the flagship brand would likely contribute P4 billion each quarter in Jollibee's system-wide sales for the rest of the year.

The Jollibee brand, which accounted for 68 percent of Jollibee's entire business, grew 13.8 percent in the second quarter. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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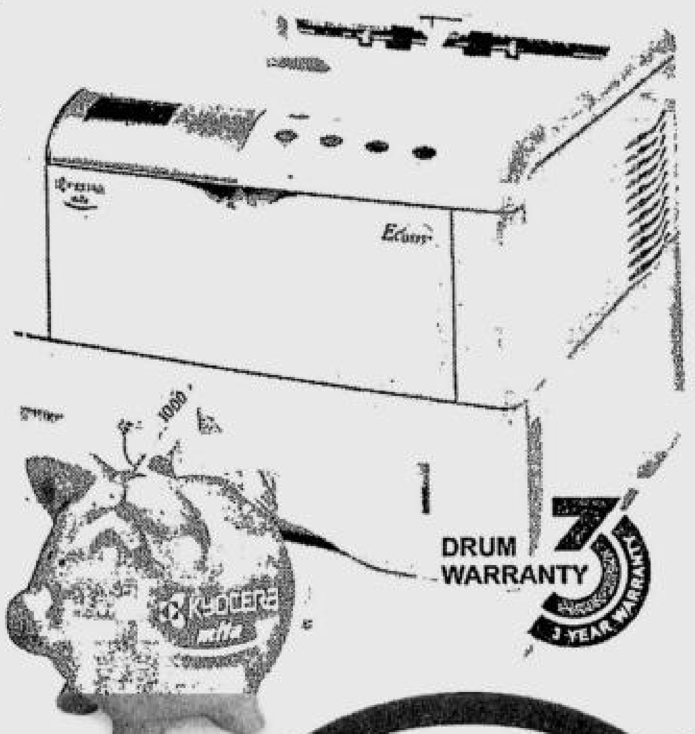

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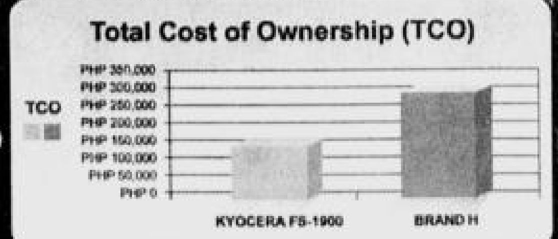

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# Robust exports to secondary markets offset US slowdown

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said yesterday robust export growth in the country's second tier export markets—China, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore—helped mitigate the impact of falling sales to the United States and Japan.

In a statement, the DTI-Bureau of Export Trade Promotion said strong exports to these markets helped the Philippines post a 4.25-percent increase in exports in the first half of the year despite the drop in exports to the country's top 2 markets—the United States, down 6.61 percent; and Japan, down 5.03 percent.

The weak economies of the United States and Japan were expected to dampen the country's exports this year, considering 70 percent of exports were electronics and semiconductors that bore the brunt of falling consumer demand in the world's biggest economies.

The DTI-BETP reported that total exports from the six countries surged 30 percent to $5.379 billion in the first six months of the year from $4.152.31 million during the same period last year.

The combined exports to the six countries accounted for an aggregate market share of 32.27 percent in the first half from 25.97 percent during the same period last year.

The top performer among the six Asian countries was China, where Philippine exports rocketed 82.23 percent in the first half this year.

The top 5 exports to China are semiconductor devices, petroleum oils, copper cathodes, parts and accessories of automatic data processing machine.

Exports to Singapore, the Philippines' second biggest market in Asia next to Japan, improved 1,52 percent, as shipments of shipments of communication radar and telecommunication equipment grew 349 percent and 117 percent in the first six months of the year.

Among the best performing export markets in Asia in the first half this year were Malaysia, up 56 percent; South Korea, up 52 percent; Hong Kong, up 29 percent; and, Taiwan, up 25 percent.

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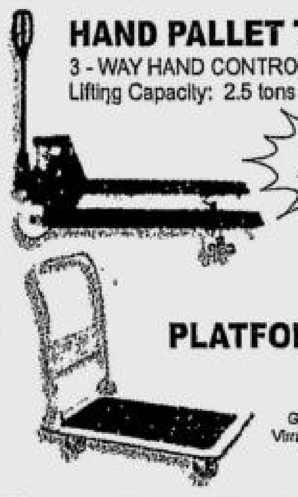

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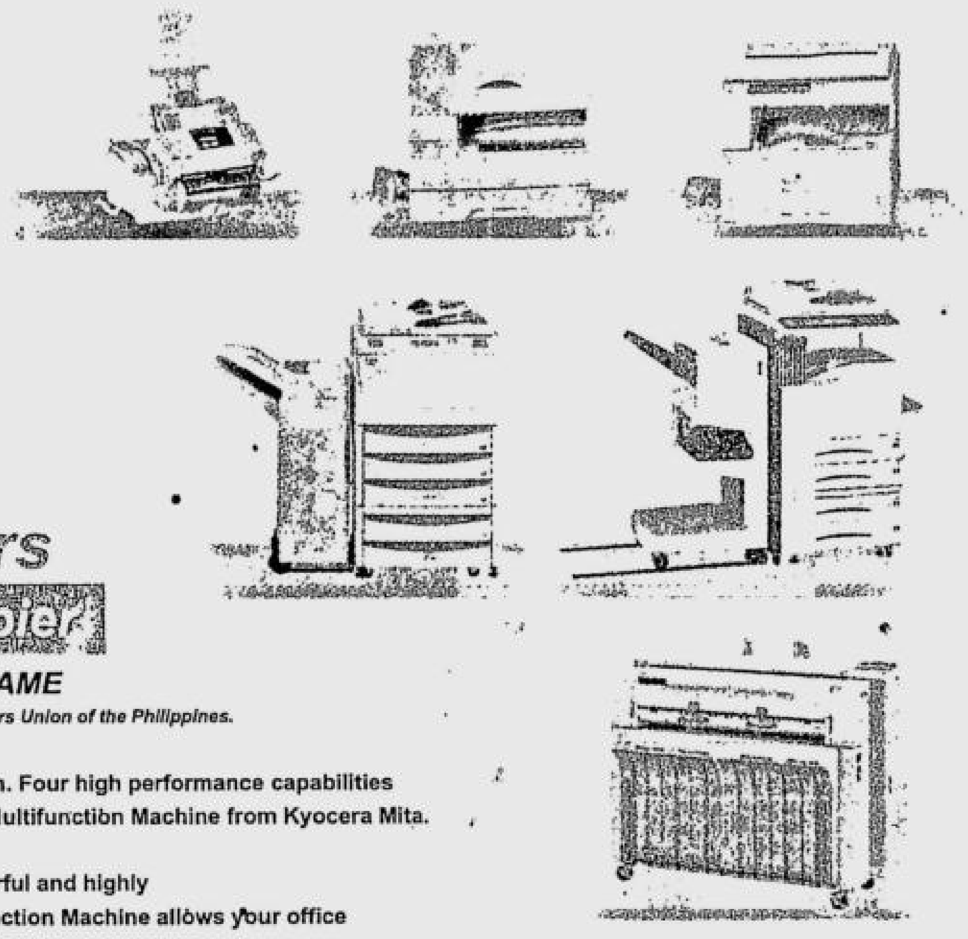

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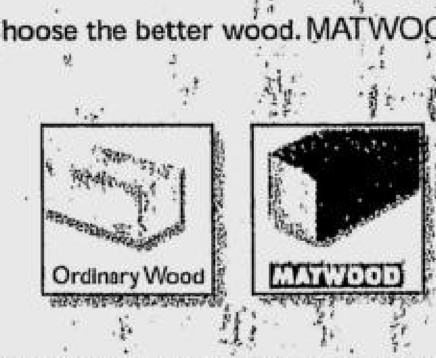

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#### QUEZON CITY

All Invite to Come & Visit Celebrity Place T-House Condo w/Club Shares & 2 Car 4 Reserve 929-8376 Nestor

FILINVEST 2sty 4br 9522195

★Kawilihan★ Houses 4Sale P7.5M/P8M/P10M • 671-4421

L-204m² Proj 8 5Bdrm w/t&b 2Car Grge Call 929-8376

PROJ.4 LA179 2br 2tb garage 920-6694/925-1348/49

NOVALICHES 360T 9390290

Rush Novaliches 330sqm P3.3M • T983-2910 Roger Sr.

#### RIZAL

1rido P-coa 360T 9978394

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

#### OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

FORTE REALTY
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815-2144 829-5081
961-7521 871-3249
776-4604 871-8318
520-0108
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### CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

#### QUEZON CITY

BELICIA HOMES-QC
(#8 4th Camanlla Street, Murphy, QC)
ALL CONC 3-BR / 2-T&B w/ATTIC
P1.85M ONLY
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING
SPACIOUS PARKING
30% D/P IN 6 MONTHS
BAL.-BANK LOAN OR IN-HOUSE
T: 422-0277 • 913-1737

### HOUSE & LOT

#### SAN JUAN

5BR Prize In Quiet Nrth Greenhills 0917-4149898

#### OTHER AREAS

Rush!CanyonWoods Btngas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

### LOT

#### PASAY

Rush Sale 650&600m² CALL Tel 5512607•(0918)9270912

#### PASIG

Ideal Place to Live 869sq.m VVerde IV 6341212

#### QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase
204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(In 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @
P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
★9319160 9319117 T.Banez

★Greenhills 1112m²@P35t
★Wack-Wack 1500m²@P33t
911-9637•437-3077

BANAWE COR STA CATALINA
333m²@P75T no flood!
7240394/7226578/09178387820

#### PROVINCIAL

CAVITE 510 sqm Front 1st Cavite Indl Ctr 2,000/sqm (036)6214116/0919877-4037

Tgytay Comm Lot-498, 580, 594 sqm Infrt. Mahogany Mkt. Cell# 0917-8900836

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

#### OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

DASMA, CAVITE 5.2HA alg GOV DRIVE Brgy Langkaan P2T/m² 7240394/7226578

### CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

#### PASIG

MEGA PLAZA 1BR w/views 20thFlr Ortigas behind Robinsons Galleria 2.8M Neg Call Cielo 911-8752

Office Condo Prime Loc. For an Office Teklite 634-1212

ORTIGAS CTR Penthse Unit Sale or Rent 412-1825

#### QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

WEST AVENUE
P3.5MT422-0277;913-1737

ROYAL VIEW
3BR P/House P6.5M
NEAR GREENHILLS
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www.guevent.com/homes

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

#### SAN JUAN

Garden Island Condo 3BR 6.3M Bargain2carpark RUSH!!4121825

LEASE TO OWN!
231 E.Fernandez St. SJ
920-6694/925-1348/49

#### PROVINCIAL

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

### FACTORY/WHSE

MALINTA, VLNZUELA 7Tm², 2Tm² Paso deBlas w/warehse 7240394/7226578/09178387820

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

#### MAKATI

2BRTB GRG nr B'dia 8441669

#### MANILA

Sampaloc 7841746/6682108

#### MANDALUYONG

1BR Grge P5.5T T532-4446

#### QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 4381480

Nr SM CITY P4500 9271821

•P5.5T Studio T-9267383

### HOUSE

#### MANDALUYONG

2BR 1TB Grge 532-4742

#### PARANAQUE

fully furn new hse4rent 4BR 4Toilet grge 4 two 480m² BFPque 8275824

Merville 4BR 5200075

#### QUEZON CITY

P3.5 Nova Nr FEU 452-8382

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

Makati/Ortigas 1-2-3BR or Sale Terms Available 5200075 / (0919)7847640

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

new studio/2BR/clinic/OFC P7.5T up no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

Residential Condo LPL Manor, Makati / Warehouse w/ office 540sqm, Bicutan. Call 547-3471 to 3473

#### MANDALUYONG

2BR w/Carpark 0918-9242622

#### QUEZON CITY

BANAWE 9T neg 3br 2588019

Day/Wk/Monthly Rates Tomas Morato QC Near Bars /Restaurants 1BR Full Furnished Call / Text 0917-5341014

New 1 BR Condo QC 6156172/6173722

NewManila P18T 3BR 2588019

NEW MLA 2BR P20T/MO.
7240394/7226578/09178387820

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•FOR RENT•
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PENTHOUSE 263sqm
Legaspi Village Makati. Very private & exclusive. Ideal for Embassy, Law & Acct. Firm, Advertising office. Attractive rental.

CALL LINDA-TELEFAX
818-5614 • 814-0884

Mkt.Grd.28m² Tel/ Prkg 8906331

### ROOM & BOARD

BUENDIA PASAY 834-5973 1male semi-furn FREE L/w 3Tmo

Ldy Mkt 8950134 / 8907136

Male Filinvest QC 952-2195

Mkt.Couple P6.5 Prkg 8906374

Nr SM CT a/c new 9271821

### WANTED TO BUY

4 SALE PRANKISATX 8099447

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

### BUSINESS RENTAL

LRI Business Plz Reposo Mkti Gym/Bar/Spa/Resto/Cafe • 895-5470/8114436 • M-F

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### HYUNDAI

94Grace 150t, 97 H100 220t 98Starex 480t, 2001Starex 690t, all power, A1 Cond, FREE LTO registration, financing ok! 731-7984

★99 ATOZ 270T very cute sedan looks like Toyota Echo MUST SEE! 7317984

#### KIA

96 BESTA 145T all power A1 cond, FREE LTO Reg'n Finance OK! 7317984

#### MITSUBISHI

'96 Pajero Good Cond. Cell 0917-8314413 Glenn

#### NISSAN

★97 SENTRA SS 290T A1Cond 7317984

#### TOYOTA

93 COROLLA 1.6GLI P230K Dark Blue 15 inch mags manual c/o Bibet 9295411

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Lite-Ace, H-Ace, Surf, etc
★Nissan Terrano
★Trucks all models
All units A1 conditioned
No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
#40 Sumulong Hiway Mambugan, Antipolo City 6822858 /66/09176007826

Pajero Safari MU Trooper Delica Surf Hi-Town Ace Terrano Suzuki Bongo Elf Canter Porter A1 912-6976 /09178342020/09178144526

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8254058, 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA REVO TOYOTA
Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

Bnew Starex MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8388

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

### CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

### SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

### WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

RITZ
FURNITURE/Used Clothing P.Books/ Magz/Shoes/Bags Utensils/Sewing Mach T.V. Filing Cab; REF;Stereo; Spkr Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646603 09178473744

### MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN GIL 780-0106 / 0917-793963?

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FORECLOSURE NO. 02-1792

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
& EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

## NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed on January 8, 2002 by DBS BANK PHILIPPINES, INC. (formerly known as Bank of Southeast Asia, Inc.), Mortgagee, with postal address at DBS Bank of the Philippines, Inc., 4/F BPI Family Savings Bank, Inc., Paseo de Roxas corner Dela Rosa Street, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and condition of the real estate mortgage contract dated August 16, 2000, executed by EDGARDO M. AQUINO, Mortgager, with residence and postal address at No. 20-o Legaspi Tower, Roxas Blvd., Manila, in favor of the DBS Bank Philippines, Inc. (formerly known as Bank of Southeast Asia, Inc.), in order to satisfy the indebtedness in the total sum of TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND THIRTY FIVE & 06/100 (P2,879,035.06) Philippine Currency as of January 4, 2002 inclusive of interest, penalties plus Sheriff's fees and other legal charges, etc., the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC, Manila thru her Sheriff IV Oscar L. Rojas, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on August 20, 2002, a 10:00 in the morning but not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon in front of the main entrance of the City Hall Building, Manila, facing Philippine Normal University, to the highest bidder for CASH and Philippine Currency the real property including its improvement existing thereon which is described as follows, to wit:

### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 188447

A parcel of land (Lot No. 19 of Block No. 1412 of the Cadastral Survey of the City of Manila, Cadastral Case No. 43, GLRO Cad. Rec. No. 204), with the Building of light materials existing thereon, situated in the District of Sta. Ana. Bounded on the NE, by Lot No. 20 of Block No. 1412; on the SE, by Lot No. 21 of Block No. 1412; on the SW, by Lot Nos. 11, 17 and 18 of Block No. 1412; and on the NW, by Lot Nos. 18 and 34 of Block No. 142. x x x containing an area of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY SIX SQUARE METERS AND SEVENTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (226.70), MORE OR LESS. x x x

Prospective bidders or buyers may investigate and verify for themselves the title mentioned above and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

City of Manila, Philippines, January 30, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JESUSA P. MANINGAS**
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) **OSCAR L. ROJAS**
Sheriff-In-Charge

(PDI--July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2002)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : August 6, 2002
Reference No. :

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project : **Sp01.OPGWNT.Le-0331, Installation of Optical fiber Groundwire (OPGW), Joint Boxes and Accessories for the Naga - Tayabas Line**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), installing complete the Optical Fiber GroundWire (OPGW) for the Naga - Tayabas Line.
3. Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid: **P 11,583,419.00**
4. Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.
   License Particular: **Category B - Specialty in Electrical Works**
   Registration Particular: **Medium A - Electrical Works**
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **August 14, 2002** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P 800.00 per copy.
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms documents and statement shall be on or before September 3, 2002 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be acceptecd.
7. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **R. T. BACANI**
*Chairman*
*Contracts Award Committee*

(PDI--Aug. 14, 18 & 22, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

# PROCUREMENT SERVICE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AIR FORCE BATTLE DRESS ATTIRE, CAMOUFLAGE BLUE SUIT WITH BERET.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P16,972,800.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **August 23, 2002, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **August 14, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **September 10, 2002 at 1:30 P.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **561-60-98 or 563-94-02.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
*Chairman, IABAC*

(PDI--Aug. 14 & 21, 2002)

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## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### MISCELLANEOUS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Bassons / Clarinets
Baritons / Euphoniums
Eb Alto Saxophones
Flutes / French Horns
Lyres / Oboes / Piccolos
Sousaphones / Tenor
Saxophones / Symbals
Trombones/Trumpets/Tubas
T9361426/9372622/9372640

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

MASTER BAKER •843-2596 • (0917)6916992•

### FEMALE

CAREGIVER Stayin 9264650

### MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 18-45 w/ w/o exp Start ASAP 641-6967Annie

Direct Hire Office Adm Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

DRIVERS & WAITERS
Apply personally on Aug 17
9-5pm Rm202 S&F Condo
137-B Panay Ave., QC

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

Graphic Artist • 687-4298

HRDSTF 09202545872 Ms. Dy

HRDSTF 09202545872 Ms. Dy

★Urgent Ofc Personnel★
18-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Shyde

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Porsh

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 18-40 W/WO EXP 9121488 MS PEACHY URGENT

OFC STF 09194639391 LYKA

OFC STF! LK4 JENG 7492993

Urgent Ofc Staff w/ w/o exp 18-45 09193269959 txt Brix

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adultwear consign 3738821

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

EARN 5T+/WK COL 8691108

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MONEY MARKET 15-42% ROI MON. SHORT TERM 7122718 AM 0917-3441133 GEORGE

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late SOTERO T. SEGUI, SR. located at Rizal, Cagayan was been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement of estate ratified before Notary Public Atty. Romulo S. Urrea under Doc. No. 469; Page No. 95; Book No. LXV; Series of 2002 dated May 4, 2002.
(PDI-Aug. 7,14, & 21, 2002)

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P1.4M Neg. T-3456781

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# MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 927-36-27, 435-4231, 920-5521 loc. 3591

## INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to undertake the supply and delivery of various sizes of Coupling Split Sleeve, Stainless Repair Clamp as shown below, as per MWSI Standard Specification:

| Quantity | Description |
|---|---|
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 400 mm MJ/MJ to fit OD pipe 448 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 400 mm MJ/MJ to fit OD pipe 430 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 400 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 470 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 500 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 605 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 600 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 675 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 700 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 770 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 750 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 810 mm |
| 6 pcs. | CI Coupling Split Sleeve 900 mm caulk type to fit OD pipe 980 mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 400 mm, overall range 400 - 442mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 400 mm, overall range 435 - 477 mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 450 mm, overall range 450 - 535 mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 450 mm, overall range 492 - 535 mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 500 mm, overall range 500 - 542 mm |
| 6 pcs. | Stainless Repair Clamps, 600 mm, overall range 609 - 651 mm |

As per MWSI Technical Specification and Terms and Conditions.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Bldg., MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2% of the total bid amount.

**Bid proposal shall be submitted at the Purchasing Department on or before 3:00 P.M. of August 28, 2002 (Wednesday).**

**Any change in the bidding will be subject to the issuance of an addendum to be issued by the Purchasing Department.**

MWSI finally reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deemed most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
*AVP-Corporate Logistics*

(PDI--Aug. 14, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
**Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**
**Province of Maguindanao**
**Municipality of Pagagawan**

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

August 5, 2002

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pagagawan, Maguindanao as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **CONCRETING OF TUNGGOL FARM TO MARKET ROAD.**
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000) per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **August 26, 2002**, addressed to: The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee, Municipality of Pagagawan.
5. A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **September 3, 2002** at the Municipal Hall of Pagagawan, Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee.
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **September 10, 2002** at the Municipal Hall of Pagagawan. Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by Bid Security of 2.5% of the approved budget cost or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget is **EIGHT MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS AND FOURTEEN (Php 8,520,220.14) CTVS.**
8. The Category/Classification of Contractors/Firm is "MEDIUM A".
9. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect of formality assume no obligations whatsoever of indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incurred in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **BAI ANNIE C. MONTAWAL**
Mayor
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Aug. 5, 9 & 14, 2002)

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# PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5279

PNOC

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY of Various Sizes of Ball Valves (FGC 22168), and Two Units - 20 Mwe, Steam-Water Separator (FGC 22629). Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement proceduresand the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recomended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o Mr. Luis Alejandro L. Josen, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5279, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting August 13, 2002, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (PHP100.00) Philippine Currency, per document.
6. For purpose of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on August 22, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
7. The estimated date of award is on October 15, 2002.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 P.M. of September 16, 2002 (FGC 22818) and September 27, 2002 (FGC 22629). Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action

(Sgd.) Sergio Antonio F. Apostol
*Chairman President C E O*

(PDI--Aug. 14, 2002)

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# DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 29 August 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

| CODE | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION | MINIMUM BID |
|---|---|---|---|
| **REAL ESTATE** | | | |
| **METRO MANILA** | | | |
| LRD-153 | No. 95 Xavier St. cor. Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila | 170 sq.m. condominum unit (with 3BR and 3TB) (CCT No. 10964-R) at Suite 12-B, Penthouse (12th Floor), Avalon Condominium | P 7,435,200.00 |
| LDA-137-a | No. 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City | 253.70 sq.m. two (2) adjoining parcels of residential lot (TCT Nos. 143256 and 143257) with building and improvement | P 2,492,600.00 |
| MGT-131 | Interior Suter St., Sta. Ana, Manila (back of Sta. Ana Fire Station) | 124 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. 156194) | P 717,000.00 |
| MGT-119 | L4 Blk. 3 Violago Homes, Batasan Subd., Capitol District, Quezon City | 186 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. RT-123746) with buildings and improvements | P 657,000.00 |
| VAB-72 | L5 Blk. 5 Queensland Village II, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches, Quezon City | 42 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. N-211716) with buildings and improvements | P 314,200.00 |
| **BATANGAS** | | | |
| LJG-124 | Erected on lot (TCT T-46824) Soro-Soro, Carsada, Batangas City | One (1) storey factory/warehouse building (TFA of 35 sq.m.) (Sale as "dismantled" and on "as-is, where-is" basis) | P 68,500.00 |
| **OZAMIZ** | | | |
| VPI-85-b | Ledesma Ext., Bo. of Centro, Ozamiz City | 549 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-26089) with buildings and improvements | P 4,896,600.00 |
| **ZAMBALES** | | | |
| LDA-137-b | Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz, Zambales | 6,639 sq.m. agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-53665) | P 2,627,800.00 |
| **CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)** | | | |
| VCP-53 | FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite | 7 units various machinery and equipment for fabrication of bolts and nuts | P 15,000.00 to<br>P 428,800.00/unit |
| VPI-85-c1-c4 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | 4 units various transportation equipment (2 cargo trucks, 1 payloader and 1 forklift) | P 72,900.00 to<br>P 292,500.00/unit |
| LJG-131-a & b | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | 1 unit Milling machine and 1 Lathe machine used in the fabrication of local spare parts of industrial machines | P 98,400.00 and<br>P 92,400.00, respectively |
| VPI-85-c5 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | One lot shop and maintenance equipment (5 units) | P 69,500.00 |
| LJG-124-a-c | Soro-Soro, Carsada, Batangas City | 1 lot chattels (1 set Ball Mill; 1 set Milling equipment and 2 units transformer) | P 57,800.00 |
| VPI-85-c6-c8 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | 5 units various equipment (1 truck scale, 1 generating set and 3 platform scales) | P 4,900.00 to<br>P 56,300.00/unit |

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

**892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;**
**893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and**
**815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.**

**SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

(PDI -- August 14 & 15, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines

# SENATE

Pasay City

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following services for Year 2003;

| A. PUBLIC BIDDING | B. SEALED BIDDING |
|---|---|
| 1. Canteen Concessioning/Catering | 1. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program |
| 2. H M O | 2. Garbage Disposal |
| 3. Housekeeping | 3. Rental of Drinking Fountains |
| 4. Preventive Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals | 4. Sanitizers and Deodorizers |
| 5. Rental of Copier Machines | 5. Subscription to Cable Television |
| 6. Rental of Shuttle Bus | 6. Supply of Flowers |
| 7. Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines | |
| 8. Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews | |
| 9. Supply of Gasoline | |
| 10. Printing & binding of "RECORD OF THE SENATE" (6 volumes) | |

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **August 19-21, 2002**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **August 28, 2002**. Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the prequalification proceedings. ONLY PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS SHALL BE ISSUED THE APPROVED SCOPE OF WORKS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR BIDDING.

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. Late bids will be rejected.

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category if any, will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

The winning bidder(s) for each category shall post a Performance Bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts, the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
*Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee*

(PDI--Aug. 14, 15 & 16, 2002)

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**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2002-17**
**Series of 2002**

**SUBJECT: Defining the Organizational Structure and Major Responsibilities of the Environmental Management Bureau as a Line Bureau by virtue of Section 34 of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 (RA 8749)**

Pursuant to Section 34 of Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, and Section 2, Rule XLIV of DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-81, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the following organizational structure of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) central, regional, provincial and other pertinent offices as a line bureau is hereby provided and defined.

## Section 1. MANDATE

The EMB shall be the primary government agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate, integrate, coordinate, supervise and implement all policies, plans, programs, projects and activities relative to the prevention and control of pollution as well as the management and enhancement of environment.

## Section 2. OBJECTIVES

To accomplish its mandate, the Bureau shall be guided by the following objectives:

**2.1 General Objective** – To properly manage and protect the environment in order to attain sustainable development while recognizing the primary responsibility of local government units, non-government agencies, private and business organizations in dealing with environmental problems.

### 2.2. Specific Objectives

2.2.1 To formulate, review and update environmental policies, programs and projects on environmental management and pollution control.

2.2.2 To establish and enforce environmental quality standards such as the quality standards for water, air, land and noise for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources consistent with the national environmental goals and enforceable at the local government units.

2.2.3 To strengthen enforcement capability to handle violations of the laws, rules, regulations and policies for protection of the environment and promote the sustainable use of environmental resources.

2.2.4 Promote public information and education to encourage participation of an informed citizenry in environmental quality planning and monitoring.

2.2.5 To develop and implement Pollution Research and Development Program in support of the following:
- ➢ environmental criteria and standards formulation
- ➢ environmental monitoring and compliance monitoring
- ➢ study of existing and potential environmental problems and issues

2.2.6 To strengthen the enforcement and implementation of major environmental laws, among others:
Presidential Decree 984 – Pollution Control Law
Presidential Decree 1586 – The Environmental Impact Assessment Law
Republic Act 6969 – Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act
Republic Act 8749 – Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999
Republic Act 9003 – Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act

## Section 3. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Consistent with its conversion from a staff to a line agency, the Bureau's organizational structure shall consist of the central and regional offices, as well as provincial and other pertinent offices that may hereinafter be created.

The Bureau, which shall be directly supervised by the DENR Undersecretary for Operations, shall likewise exercise supervision and control over its regional, provincial and other field offices, which shall, in turn, constitute the operating/implementing arms of the Bureau for the direct implementation of plans and programs in accordance with approved policies and standards.

The Chief Executive of the Bureau shall be the Executive Director who has the primary authority to discharge its powers and functions as well as the responsibility to carry out the mandates vested by law to the Bureau.

The Regional Director, with a rank equivalent to that of a Regional Technical Director, shall discharge the mandate of the Bureau at the regional level and be directly responsible to the Bureau Director.

The different organizational subdivisions and their major functional responsibilities are as follows:

### CENTRAL OFFICE

### 3.1 Office of the Director

The Director shall exercise supervision and control over all services, divisions, sections and other units including the regional offices of the Bureau; establish policies and standards for the operations of the Bureau pursuant to DENR plans and programs; promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the Bureau objectives; and perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned/provided by laws, DENR rules and regulations.

The Office of the Director shall take direct charge in the implementation of policies, programs and projects for the effective and efficient environmental management and pollution control; recommend to the Secretary the adoption of policies relating to enhancement of air and water quality, proper disposition and management of solid wastes, toxic and hazardous substances, appropriate penal sanctions against violators of environmental laws; and manage the overall operations of the Bureau.

The Office of the Director shall exercise supervision over the following environmental services/offices:

**3.1.1 Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) Technical Secretariat**

The PAB Technical Secretariat shall provide support to the Board in the adjudication of industrial pollution cases.

**3.1.2 National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Secretariat**

The NSWMC Secretariat shall provide support to the NSWMC in the implementation of solid waste management plans and the issuance of policies to achieve the objectives of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003).

**3.1.3 National Ecology Center (NEC)**

The NEC shall handle information dissemination, consultation, education and training of various local government units on ecological waste management.

**3.1.4 Administrative & Finance Service**

The Administrative & Finance Service shall provide the administrative and financial functions of the Bureau. This shall be composed of the administrative and finance divisions.

**3.1.4.1 Administrative Division**

The Administrative Division shall establish bureau-wide policies on personnel management, general services, communications, logistics, property, safety, records management and documentation.

This Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.4.1.1 Human Resource Management**

**3.1.4.1.2 Records**

**3.1.4.1.3 General and Property Services**

**3.1.4.2 Finance Division**

The Finance Division shall develop, maintain and improve a cost and financial accounting system for all projects of the Bureau, formulate basic policies and guidelines for the preparation of budget; and exercise overall supervision over the financial management functions and activities of the Bureau and its Regional Offices.

This Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.4.2.1 Budget**

**3.1.4.2.2 Accounting**

**3.1.4.2.3 Cashier**

**3.1.5 Environmental Planning & Policy Service**

The Environmental Planning & Policy Service shall be composed of three (3) Divisions, namely:

**3.1.5.1 Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment and Management (EIRAM) Division**

The EIRAM Division shall serve as the focal point to achieve its mission to carry out the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System Policy (PD 1586) to attain and maintain a rational and orderly balance between socioeconomic growth and environmental protection; and promote and strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) networking/linkages and coordination with the government, non-government and private entities.

The EIRAM Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.5.1.1 Review and Evaluation Section**

The Section shall be in charge of screening of projects for coverage under the EIS System, handling EIS Scoping, Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) applications review/evaluation and related functions of the Division.

**3.1.5.1.2 Monitoring and Validation Section**

The Section shall be in charge of monitoring of projects' compliance to ECC conditions and implementation of the Environmental Management Program (EMP) and validation of the impacts as a basis for evaluating environmental performance or the effectiveness of the EMP.

*The two previous Sections shall each have Infrastructure Units, Heavy and Energy Industries Units and Resource Extractive Industries Units.*

**3.1.5.1.3 System Coordination and Management Section**

The Section in coordination with the Environmental Planning and Policy division is in charge of assuring that the present internal policies in the review and evaluation as well as monitoring of projects/programs are consistent with the national policies and shall monitor and document specific decisions on certain cases encountered during day-to-day operations which has policy implications. It shall also be responsible with the integration of the voluminous environmental data gathered from the implementation of the system into useful information for input into the environmental planning and policy formulation function of the EMB. It shall integrate commitments made in various meetings with the other government agencies in the Division's internal policies. The Section shall have two Units representing the systems and coordination level concerns, namely: Project Level Systems Planning and Management Unit and Program and Policy Level Systems Planning and Management Unit.

**3.1.5.2 Planning and Policy Division**

The Planning and Policy Division shall be responsible for integrating the short, medium and long-term plane of the Bureau; provide planning standards and guidelines for integrating sectoral and regional plans in the preparation of the Bureau's budget; provide a mechanism for monitoring and assessment of physical and financial accomplishments. It shall also design and install a national and regional development planning and management system; develop/evaluate and monitor programs/local and foreign-assisted projects of the Bureau, undertake policy studies for effective, efficient, and economical operations of the Bureau.

The Planning and Policy Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.5.2.1 Planning and Programming**

**3.1.5.2.2 Program Monitoring and Evaluation**

**3.1.5.2.3 Policy Analysis and Legislative Liaison**

**3.1.5.2.4 Project Management of Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects**

**3.1.5.3 Information Technology & Statistics Division**

The Information Technology & Statistics Division shall coordinate over-all activities of the Bureau on establishing and maintaining management information systems and databases that will provide up-to-date information necessary for management's policy formulation and decision-making functions. This division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.5.3.1 Environmental Statistics**

**3.1.5.3.2 Systems Development and Maintenance**

**3.1.6 Standard Setting & Monitoring Service**

The Standard Setting & Monitoring Service shall formulate standards/monitoring guidelines for acceptable quality of air and water and management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the country. The service shall be composed of the following divisions, namely:

**3.1.6.1 Laboratory Services & Pollution Research Division**

The laboratory Services & Pollution Research Division shall formulate, develop, coordinate, and implement short-term and long-term research programs on existing and potential environmental issues; aim to provide the scientific data to be used as basis for policy formulation, environmental monitoring, and enforcement of rules and regulations, and in dealing with potential environmental issues and problems; focus on priority areas such as the following: environmental quality standards and criteria, global phenomena, environmental technology assessment and application, coastal environment management, and special areas of concern and laboratory support services.

The Laboratory Services and Pollution Research Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.6.1.1 Research and Development Section**

**3.1.6.1.2 Laboratory Support Services Section**

**3.1.6.2 Air Quality Management Division**

This Division shall undertake the implementation of a holistic national program for air pollution management including the establishment and supervision of airsheds throughout the country; formulate air quality surveillance and monitoring/schemes for the implementation by the regional offices; conduct emission source inventory for the entire country in coordination with the regional offices; evaluate plans, technologies/control facilities relevant to the issuance of permits and clearances.

This Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.6.2.1 Inspection and Monitoring**

**3.1.6.2.2 Emission Inventory**

**3.1.6.2.3 Standards Setting**

**3.1.6.3 Water Quality Management Division**

The Water Quality Management Division shall undertake water quality surveillance and monitoring program for the implementation by the regional offices; conduct water pollution discharge inventory from point and non-point sources; develop and validate dispersion model through simulation and validation of available models for predicting pollutant levels in coordination with the Pollution Research Division; review, formulate and update the country's water quality and industrial effluent standards; monitor the activities of the regional offices regarding the effective implementation of pollution control law and oversee the river classification program.

The Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.1.6.3.1 Inspection and Monitoring**

**3.1.6.3.2 Water Quality Assessment**

**3.1.6.3.3 Standards Setting**

**3.1.6.4 Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Management Division**

The Division shall undertake implementation of policies, plans and programs to achieve the objectives of the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act (R.A. 6969). It shall be composed of five (5) Sections, namely:

**3.1.6.4.1 Toxic Chemicals Monitoring and Investigation Section**

The Toxic Chemicals Monitoring Section shall conduct regular industrial inspection and compliance monitoring of the condition stipulated in issued permits and clearances to maintain safe use and management of chemicals and chemical substances; investigate complaints and other related issues and concerns regarding the improper use and management of chemicals and chemical substances and recommend sanctions for non-complying industry; and provide inputs and assistance to develop a compliance monitoring scheme to enforce and promote observance of the provision of RA 6969.

**3.1.6.4.2 Toxic Chemicals Permits/Clearances Issuance Section**

The Toxic Chemicals Permits/Clearances Issuance Section shall review/evaluate environmental hazards and risks of industrial chemicals and issue permits to chemicals and chemical substances under CCO and PCL; review/evaluate chemicals and chemical substances subject to PMPIN requirements and issue Importation Clearance and/or Interim Status Permits; establish and maintain database for chemical and chemical substances in PCL and CCO; and spearhead the review and updating of PICCS together with MIID and PCTD.

**3.1.6.4.3 Hazardous Wastes Monitoring/Inspection Section**

The Hazardous Wastes Monitoring/Inspection Section shall conduct regular inspection and compliance monitoring of facilities generating, recycling and treating hazardous wastes including disposal facilities and survey of possible sites contaminated by hazardous wastes; act on complaints and information on illegal dumping and traffic of hazardous wastes and recommend/impose sanctions against violators of RA 6969 and Based Convention.

**3.1.6.4.4 Hazardous Wastes Permits/Clearances Issuance Section**

The Hazardous Wastes Permits/Clearance Issuance Section shall prepare checklist of information requirements for the issuance of permits and clearances; review/evaluate applications for transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes for treatment and disposal and recommend issuance or denied permits and clearances. It shall also implement the requirements and procedures of the Basel Convention and DAOs 92-29, 94-28 and 97-27.

**3.1.6.4.5 Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes Standard Setting Section**

The Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes Standard Setting Section shall develop guidelines and standards/procedures for the proper storage, transport and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. It shall establish a national system to link existing sources of information on chemicals and hazardous wastes; develop standard criteria for risk assessment and other related toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes management standards. It shall coordinate within the Department, other government agencies and private institutions for effective implementation of rules and regulations under RA 6969.

**3.1.7 Legal and Environmental Education Services**

The Legal and Environmental Education Service shall provide counsel/advice/comments and reports on certain issues pertaining to legal matters for appropriate action of the Director. It shall also provide support to the intensive information and environmental campaign in the country. It shall be composed of two (2) Divisions, namely:

**3.1.7.1 Legal Division**

The Legal Division shall direct the Bureau's legal operations. It shall provide legal counsel/advice; review issuance of licenses, permits, notices of violations, Orders/Resolutions, contracts involving EMB's mandate; file indictment cases against violators and assist in the formulation of policies, programs, guidelines, memorandum circulars, standards and rules and regulations. Likewise it shall render comments on certain issues that touched on legal matters, conduct continuing legal studies and researches, draft decisions, orders and reports for appropriate action of the Executive Director.

The Division shall be composed of the following Sections, namely:

**3.1.7.1.1 Litigation and Prosecution, Evaluation & Enforcement Section**

**3.1.7.1.2 Investigation, Research & Legislative Liaison Section**

**3.1.7.2 Environmental Education & Information Division**

The Division shall be composed of the following Sections:

**3.1.7.2.1 Information and Public Advocacy Section**

The Information and Public Advocacy Section shall undertake activities that will create public awareness through the use of print and broadcast media, conduct of seminars, symposia, lectures, briefings and other related information activities; prepares environmental quality report; conduct in-house training needs analysis; and conduct regular career orientation seminars on environment and conduct capability training to Regional Offices.

**3.1.7.2.2 Environmental Education & Capability Building Section**

This Section shall undertake programs that will strategically inculcate awareness, understanding, as well as promote skills, positive attitudes, commitments and active participation for the protection of the environment, through the integration of environmental concerns in the school, government and private sectors. It shall also conduct training needs analysis and actual training programs for the afore-cited sectors.

**3.1.7.2.3 Global Environment Commitment Coordination Section**

The Global Environment Commitment Coordination Section shall set as a priority the coordination of the development, negotiation and ratification of international environmental conventions, agreements/protocols to deal effectively with environmental degradation and protection of shared global resources; promote awareness among stakeholders/general public on international conventions its status and impacts on the country's programs/projects.

### REGIONAL OFFICE

### 3.2 Office of the Regional Director

The Regional Director shall implement the pertinent laws, policies, rules and regulations; implement the Bureau's programs in the region; exercise the management functions of planning, organizing, directing and controlling; and perform other duties and functions as may be provided by law or further delegated by the Director.

The Office of the Regional Director shall take charge of environmental management and pollution control functions in the region and render staff and technical support to Environmental Regional Offices and other Boards created for Environmental Management.

This Office shall exercise supervision over the following Divisions:

**3.2.1 Administrative and Finance Division**

The Administrative and Finance Division shall provide general administrative services pertaining to human resources management, records, property and other forms of support to operations; and render budgeting, cashiering and accounting services.

This Division shall be composed of the following Sections:

**3.2.1.1 Administrative**

**3.2.1.2. Finance**

**3.2.2 Pollution Control Division**

The Pollution Control Division shall be tasked to implement all programs and activities in accordance to PD 984, RA 8749, and RA 6969. It shall undertake regular monitoring of sampling stations to determine the air and water quality of the region; conduct compliance monitoring of firms to environmental laws; survey of air pollution sources and hazardous wastes generators; evaluate and process applications for permits pursuant to PD 984, RA 8749 and RA 6969.

This Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.2.2.1 Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Management Section**

**3.2.2.2 Air Quality Management Section**

**3.2.2.3 Water Quality Management Section**

**3.2.2.4 Laboratory Section**

**3.2.3 Environmental Impact and Monitoring Division**

The Environmental Impact and Monitoring Division shall undertake all activities relative to the implementation of the Environmental Impact Statement System (PD1586). It shall take charge of the review and processing of applications for *Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs)* for projects under Environmentally Critical Areas, conduct compliance monitoring of projects to PD 1586, and provide assistance to local government units for vigorous and coordinated solid waste management.

The Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.2.3.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Section**

**3.2.3.2 Field Monitoring Section**

**3.2.3.3 Solid Waste Management Section**

**3.2.4 Legal and Environmental Education Division**

The Legal and Environmental Education Division shall provide counsel/advice/comments and reports on certain issues pertaining to legal matters for appropriate action of the Regional Director. It shall review and evaluate pollution cases prior to its evaluation to Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB). It shall also provide support to the intensive information and environmental campaign in the regions.

This Division shall be composed of the following sections:

**3.2.4.1 Legal Section**

**3.2.4.2 Education and Information Section**

**3.2.5 Planning & Programming, MIS and Statistics Division**

The Division shall undertake planning and programming, monitoring and assessment of programs/activities of the region. It shall also coordinate over-all activities of the region on establishing and maintaining management information systems and databases that will provide up-to-date information; provide updated and timely statistics and information for planning purposes and information dissemination.

**3.2.5.1 Planning and Programming Section**

**3.2.5.2 MIS Section**

**3.2.5.3 Statistics Section**

### 3.3 Provincial and Other Pertinent Offices

Provincial and other field offices as may be hereinafter created by the Secretary upon recommendation by the Director and the Undersecretary for Operations shall be an extension of the Regional Office, particularly in the IEC Campaign and provision of monitoring services.

Other pertinent Offices as may be likewise hereinafter created shall be responsible for other specific functions as may be warranted later on.

The Environmental Management Provincial Offices shall be composed of the following units:

**3.3.1 Environmental Monitoring Unit**

**3.3.2 Environmental Information and Education Unit**

The Bureau Regional Director shall exercise control over environmental management and pollution activities and shall perform technical coordination with the Regional Executive Director (RED) in all aspects of environmental management. In case of differences/conflicts of interpretation, opinion and/or perception, the issue shall be elevated by the RED to the Undersecretary for Operations for resolution. Regarding the issuance of permits under PD 984 and PD 1586, specifically ECC and other permits will be the responsibility of the Regional Director.

## Section 4. Geographical Jurisdiction of the Regional Office

With the conversion of the EMB as a Line Bureau, there shall be 16 Regional Offices, each for Regions 1 to 13, NCR, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Region IV-B. Further, the Provincial Environmental Offices will be created in all provinces except those under the jurisdiction of ARMM.

## Section 5. Staffing

The EMB Central Office shall initially be complemented with additional one hundred forty-six (146) positions to be created on top of its existing plantilla positions.

The sixteen (16) EMB Regional Offices shall initially be complemented with a total additional eight hundred thirty-seven (837) positions to be created on top of their existing plantilla positions, which shall be allocated in accordance with their respective staffing patterns.

The appropriate staffing pattern, position classification and organizational structure in accordance with the preceding premises are shown in Annexes A and B and shall be approved by the DENR Secretary for implementation. The positions shall be filled in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

## Section 6. Transitory Provision

Pending the approval of the new staffing pattern and position classification, all permanent and casual employees of the Bureau shall continue to perform their respective duties and responsibilities and receive the corresponding salaries and benefits due them, unless otherwise separated from the service.

The Bureau shall internally adopt the new organization in the interim. In this regard, the Undersecretary for Operations is hereby authorized to reassign Bureau/Regional personnel, subject to existing rules and regulations, through an appropriate Office Order.

The new position items for the above structure shall be created out of the vacant position items in the concerned offices of the DENR, upon approval of the Department of Budget and Management (reclassification of position items).

Meantime, the support services staff of the Regional Office (ROs) shall be provided by the DENR ROs as designated by the Regional Executive Director.

## Section 7. Repealing Clause

All Orders, Circulars, or Instructions of the DENR inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

## Section 8. Effectivity

This Order shall take effect immediately.

**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ**
*Secretary*

July 24, 2002

(PDI – August 14, 2002)

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**of**

## Emilia "Miling" Dizon Segismundo

on her First Death Anniversary
August 14, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine,** *New Manila, Q.C.* | 7:00 AM |
| **Lipa City Cathedral,** *Lipa City, Batangas* | 5:15 PM |
| **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,** *Antipolo, Lipa City* | |
| **Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel**<br>*Equitable PCI Bank, Makati Ave.* | 12:15 PM |
| **Christ the King,** *E. Rodriguez, Q.C.* | 7:00 A.M. |
| **St. Patrick's,** *Carlsbad, California* | 7:00 AM |
| **St. Anne's,** *Brentwood, New York* | 5:30 PM |

Her family requests the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

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## DIOMEDES P. ECHAVE, SR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator on August 12, 2002,*
*at the age of 71.*

His wife **GLORIA**; children **NEAL** and **BETH**, **CUYLER** and **BONG**, **ROMMEL**, **KAY** and **BENEDICT**, **TESSA** and **CALOY**, **JUN-JUN**; grandchildren **BUTCHOY**, **ANDRE'**, **IGI**, **KYLE**, **PAOLO**, **MIGI**, **SAM**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

---

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in verdant pastures. In restful waters he leads me. He refreshes my soul."* **Psalm 23**

## SK RAMON V. CONSING

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Chairman DYNO Finance Corp.
Chairman Cadiz Water District
Treasurer United Cadiz Sugarcane Planters Association
Past Director Holy Infant Academy
Founder Cadiz Parish Catechist Foundation
President Chito Foundation

*Peacefully joined his Creator on August 10, 2002 at the age of 67.*

His loving wife **Ma. Luisa (Isang) Hilado Consing;**
His children: **Lito & Mia, Mercy & Sherman, Hope & Noly, Raymund & Anne, and Lisa;**
His grandchildren: **Angela, Paolo, Anin, Sasha, Manolet, Bea, Jancy, Vince, Tobie & Theo;**
Brothers & Sisters: **Teresa, Alberto, Lucy & Sister Anne, SPC;**

Brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the New Wing of the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels in Bacolod City and He will be transferred to Sto. Niño Parish Church in Cadiz City on August 16, 2002 and will finally be brought to the family chapel in Canibungan, Cadiz on August 17, 2002.

Interment will be on August 18, 2002 in Ha. Canibungan Cadiz after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the family mausoleum.

*NOTE: PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS. DONATION TO CADIZ CATECHIST FOUNDATION IS MORE APPRECIATED.*

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*Our Dearly Beloved Papa*

## SILVERIO "VERIONG" A. MARIANO, SR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator on August 10, 2002*
*at the age of 93.*

His late wife **Leonides Gundaya Mariano (+); loving children & children-in-law Erlinda & Melchor; Ciriaco & Nellie; Elpidio & Alma; Jovita & Roberto; Lenie & Roy; Manuel & Leah; Romeo & Rachel, Rodolfo & Annie; Rey & Ellen; Silverio, Jr & Elvie; Jesus & Joya;** grandchildren & grandchildren-in-law; **Mac, Irene, Roy, Wilson, Gary, Elpidio (Jr), Emily, Eco, Maristel, Marvin, Albert, Rhoderick, Louie, Leizel, Roderick, Kristin, Grace, Jailen, Joanabel, Kevin, Katrina, Michael, Mae-Mae;** great grandchildren **Joshua, Giana Louise,** relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, 296 Quezon Ave, QC.

Interment will be on August 14, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 1:00pm Mass at the 3rd Floor of St. Peter Memorial Chapels.

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# Give the power of choice to those who have none

**By Tita Datu Puangco**

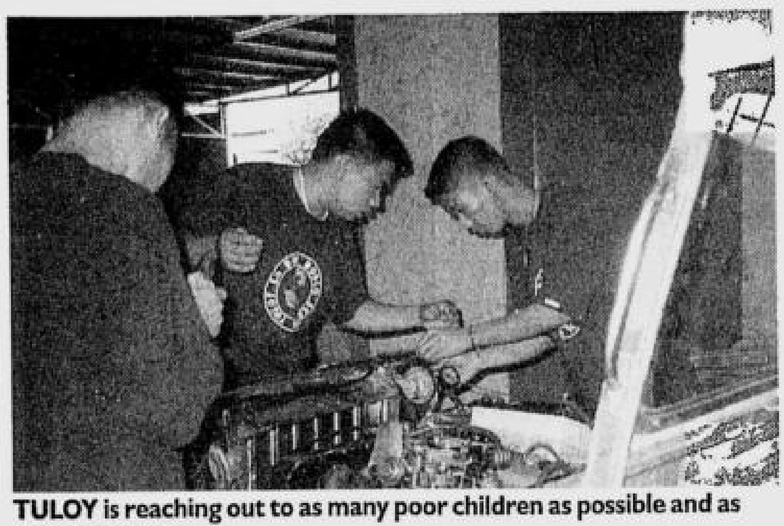
*(In lieu of her usual Advice for the Anxious Person column, Ms Puangco shares the following inspiring story as a break from the anxieties of work life.)*

NOTHING is more inspiring on a stormy day than a conversation with Father Rocky Evangelista, the founder of Tuloy Foundation Inc., an organization that has been serving street children since 1993.

What impressed me most was his charismatic, visionary yet practical approach in helping street children. As cited in the recent book published by the Drucker Foundation entitled, "Leading Beyond Walls," the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Project is an inspiring model of the transforming power of free choice-Father Rocky's choice to respond to the call to serve, the decisions of many volunteers to give up lucrative jobs in order to serve, the opportunity given to street children to choose and value their choices. Here's a part of our conversation:

**Tita: What is your vision for street children?**

**Father Rocky:** We want to take care of 1,000 kids by 2005. We prepare them to become total persons, who can be reintegrated in society. We give them unconditional care, as one would take care of a normal child. At Tuloy, we welcome the child and work with him up to the finish line. It is very expensive. But it is a wise investment for the future. We pay a higher price if they grow up in a life of crime and they take away lives.



**TULOY** is reaching out to as many poor children as possible and as fast as possible.

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

**Tita: What is the level of financial investment required?**

**Father Rocky:** In 1993, we needed P 20,000 a month. Today, we need P2,000,000 a month to take care of 400 kids. It is day-to-day survival. We live on God's providence and faith in people. People give and that is how we survive. We have no trust fund; people always come to help at the right time.

**Tita: What are some of your rewarding experiences working with street children?**

**Father Rocky:** One child tells me, "I want to volunteer for Tuloy because you saved me. I want to help you save many, many more." Another child says, "I thought I would end up people killing people to survive, now I can help myself and other people." Still another says, "I thought there was no more God because for me God is good people. *Sa Tuloy, kahit hindi ako kamag-anak, minahal ako.* Now I believe in God and I want to be good." Another child says, "I want to be a security guard someday, because I have been beaten by so many people in the streets. I will be here to guard the children from those who will harm them."

**Tita: Tell us about frustrating incidents.**

**Father Rocky:** In the beginning, we felt frustrated when a child is on the way to recovery and then leaves and says he does not want to stay. Now, instead of looking at these as setbacks, we have a process for strengthening the child. We recognize that children come with different levels of hurt. There are temptations for the child, too. Another frustration is when we know may people have the capability to help but they are blind. If everybody does just a little thing, give their time, their treasure and talent, we can do so much more. But then, it is crazy to think of difficulties when there are more children out there who need help. We expand even if it is difficult.

**Tita: If you see a street child, how do you convince him or her to go to Tuloy?**

**Father Rocky:** Our key is the power of choice. The child has to choose. First, I establish a rapport of communication, friendship. I find the reason for his situation. I invite him to come to our place. I encourage him to look beyond short-term survival and prepare for the future. I convince him that he can make it. He can leave and come back unless he is a great threat to others. If a child is a psychopath or an inveterate exhibitionist, he is always reconsidered. There are kids who leave because of the consumerist gang street mentality.

**Tita: What is your greatest wish today?**

**Father Rocky:** My wish is that many more people, rich or poor, will respond as quickly, as abundantly, to help. Tuloy is reaching out to as many poor children as possible and as fast as possible. Time is of the essence. A child in distress cannot wait. To a poor child hanging on to himself, every night that passes may be the last night. He can take lives or take his own life and lose dignity. We want people to help because they believe in a cause not because they pity us. We want partners. Help us because we do things well. Sometimes bigness can be a hindrance. But

**EVANGELISTA**

we are just beginning. People should work to help us reach more children as soon as possible.

Our conversation ended with my belief reaffirmed that one man working on a vision can indeed make a difference in the lives of over 500, even 1,000 street children. If you want to help Tuloy sa Don Bosco, call 5602271 or 72 or e-mail *fr_rocky@yahoo.com*.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

# How to jump 'out of the box' into the fire of creativity

**By Ricky B. Garcia**

*(Recipes for Learning columnist Moje Ramos Aquino talked on creativity and innovation with Studio 23's Breakfast host Bam Aquino and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier last Tuesday on the People at Work segment. Here's the gist of that interview.)*

**PaW: How do you know if you are creative and innovative?**

**Moje:** We are all born with the talent and ability to create and innovate. Some use this latent talent, some develop and stretch it even more, most simply dismiss such ability. They are either embarrassed or are ashamed to display their creativity and innovation.

**PaW: Do you mean there is something wrong with me because I am creative?**

**Moje:** In my own company I also hire people who are so-called *"sira tuktok."* We need them to power the innovation climate in the organization. According to Albert Einstein, the truly "insane" people are those who do things again and again, but expect a different result each time. Creative and innovative people are those who do things differently to achieve a different, much better result.

**PaW: How do you measure creativity and innovation?**

**Moje:** Creativity and innovation create value for the person, the organization and society, in general. It is this value that is measured. Creativity and innovation could also be measured by way of the very existence of the company. For example the show, Breakfast, if it stays another season, it means people involved in the show have been very innovative since its viewers appreciate the values they offer and continue watching it.

**PaW: What are the ways you can be creative at work whether you are a clerk or an artist?**

**Moje:** By continuously improving on what you are doing. If you could do a job in one hour, how could you do it in 50 minutes or even 30 minutes? How could you come out with a better quality output using less inputs or materials? How could you make things simpler, easier to do? What and how could you maximize, minimize, add, subtract or substitute? One need not be an artist to be creative. An artist need not know standard business measures of creativity to be creative. They offer their own standards. People at work need also to raise the bar every so often and open themselves to challenges and opportunities for self-expression and innovation.

**PaW:How do you encourage individuals to go beyond "out-of-the-box" ideas? What are some techniques for boosting creativity and innovation?**

**Moje:** Allow them to fail and learn from their failures. Now, if they repeat the same mistake again and again, that's a different story altogether. Help them get in touch with their creative self. Austrian composer Mozart needed to exercise before he composed music. Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes wanted to be relaxed and often solved his most difficult problems in a hot bath. German philosopher Immanuel Kant worked in bed at times with blankets arranged in a special way. They can also attend the Innovation Camp on Aug. 16, Friday at the Makati Sports Club, Makati City and join a community of innovators and creators. Those interested to unleash their creative powers can call Paradigms and Paradoxes Consultants, 715-9332 or 714-4533 for details. There is also a flood of books on creativity.

**AQUINO**

**PaW: How can you bring out a creative atmosphere at work? When do you know that you need to be creative and innovative?**

**Moje:** The mother of innovation and creativity is curiosity and the father is scarcity. These two are often the drivers of creativity and innovation. In this times of resource scarcity, global competition, information economy, desire for world class services and products and networked economy, there is no doubt that only those companies who are and will continue to innovate are the ones who will survive. Therefore, there is a need to cultivate a culture of innovation in the organization. Where innovation and creativity are given premium attention, reward and recognition and supported by belief and action at all levels in the organization

# Parenting hones managing skills

WORKING MOM

*An Mercado Alcantara*

ON A brief mom's escape to Page One at the Power Plant, I stumbled upon a book that I thought captured all that we have been talking about in this column over the past year.

The book is called Peanut Butter and Jelly Management: Tales from Parenthood, Lessons for Managers written by Chris and Reina Komisarjevsky (published by AMACOM Books). It's a nifty small book with a brown paper book jacket (much like a brown paper bag where you would put-what else?-peanut butter and jelly sandwiches). The premise of the book echoes the thesis of this column: "If we listen carefully, watch our children attentively at home, see how they behave, and think through how we go about, bringing them up, we can greatly improve our chances of successfully providing leadership in the workplace." In short, striving to be a good parent more than prepares you for the challenges of management.

### Similar issues

Chris and Reina recognized that the behavioral patterns they saw at home were the same patterns they saw at work. Over time, they "came to recognize ever more strongly that the issues were remarkably similar, whether in the concrete and glass office building or in the cedar-sided house," they explained.

The book then is a collection of short stories with each story organized in three parts. First, a home event is re-created. Second, the lessons they've learned from the event. And third, the lessons from home which could apply at work. The result is a heartwarming collection that provides a refreshing break from those heavy, theoretical management books.

I'd like to give you a sneak preview of the book because I think it contains gems we could all use, I chose excerpts from the chapter called Balloons for Christoper Michael.

### Emotional bonds

"The first part deals with the birth and eventual death of the couple's infant son Christopher Michael. Chris writes: "Though he never marked his first birthday, every September 10th, Christopher's birthday, all the kids gather in front of our house, with bunches of balloons in their hands. All at the same time, they open their fingers and let the balloons fly. As the balloons float upwards and catch the wind, the kids yell out as loudly as they can 'Happy Birthday, Christoper!' Surely, he hears them."

Our daily lives are full of emotion, it provides the special context in which we live. Common experiences create a strong emotional bond. Reliving the experience or the memory of a person who had been part of that bond through traditions (like the balloons) reinforce the bond.

Chris draws the parallel: "Businesses like people and families need an emotional bond. They need successes, but they also need failures. They need traditions, respect for their founders and founding principles. And they need people of varied talents who personify the very values that have made the company great.

"The challenge for the leader in business is twofold," writes Chris. "First, to find a way to balance the human and the financial responsibilities. And, second, to create a culture where emotion is fostered in order to help drive the business forward.

"Emotion binds people together equally in those times when there is great success and during those times which challenge the economic growth even the very survival of the company."

### Great gift

The conclusions are good, true, and so heartwarming, much like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The books are still available at Page One and would make a great gift to your boss, that other working mom who sits across your cubicle, or simply get it as a gift for you. And, hey, don't forget to grab the latest copy of Metro Working Mom while you're at it. Gretchen Baretto is on the cover this month and we've got a really interesting feature on how to handle pain, whether it's emotional pain, physical pain, or those nasty petty aches that we have. There's just so much to learn.

*(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at* working-mom@pinoycentral.com*)*

# Your image is the message

**By Rochelle Leonor**

DO you project a professional image? Do people see you as confident and authoritative? Or do they think that you're not credible and they refuse to listen to you?

In the world of business, having the right corporate image may just be as important as having the brains for your job. A weak image can be a liability since it can cost you lost opportunities. It can also drive you out of business.

This is why many companies give time, effort and money in maintaining its good image. They recognize that it is a valuable asset since it builds client loyalty. Having a good image also helps during difficult economic times.

### Power and authority

Individually, it helps to have a professional image as this speaks of power, status and authority. Whether you're a graduate fresh out of school or a supervisor eyeing that managerial position, you must exude a professional image.

Mariecor Salas Ding, a known image development expert, says a good image starts with professional behavior. Ding says a person must be focused and reliable. He should not waste time-whether it's the company's or another person's. He should maintain a positive outlook and must acknowledge the support of other people.

### Grooming habits

Poise and grooming habits are also essential. As the adage goes, first impressions last. Ding says that in 30 seconds, people can already make an impression. And this impression can make or break you. A person must send positive body signals such as smiling and maintaining eye contact. She should correct negative mannerisms like biting nails or playing with her hair.

He must also choose the right colors in his wardrobes. Power colors should be used as these catch attention. Blue means responsibility, knowledge and trustworthiness. Green, on the other hand, connotes prestige. Black means dignity and refinement. Ding says you must avoid yellow since it suggests being temporary and brown doesn't carry authority.

For one's wardrobe, Ding suggests suits for people of higher positions. For others, she suggests long-sleeved polo for men and business-like dresses for women. She also advises to make sure that shoes are polished since most people tend to neglect it.

Etiquette and social graces also show whether a person has the right image. When answering phone calls, she should always greet the caller with a smile. Handshakes should be firm. When being introduced, make sure you repeat the name of the other person to commit his name to your memory. Ding advises to bring business cards all the time.

### Effective communication

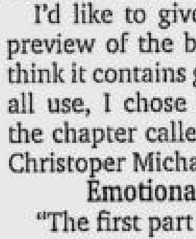
Most important in having the right image is the ability to effectively communicate with others. One may wear the right clothes but if he can't carry a conversation, then all is meaningless.

When meeting new business associates, the trick to starting a conversation is to complement the other person. Ding says this will break the ice and start the conversation rolling. One must also watch out for his voice. Learn how to modulate your voice and avoid shouting. You must also pronounce words properly. Most of all, Ding says one must master the art of listening. This is what makes a good conversationalist.

To have a good image enables you to sell yourself. It is crucial for your search of a good career. It can also help you land that promotion. Ding says you must be confident at all times.

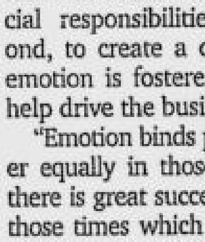
## EDITOR'S PICKS

These are available at Power Books.



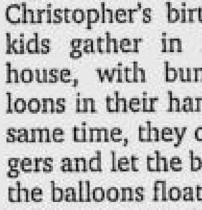
**Resolving Conflicts at Work**

It is a practical guide for resolving conflicts and miscommunication at work. Written by Kenneth Cloke and Joan Goldsmith, the book teaches how conflicts can be opportunities for personal growth. This book teaches you how to develop a dynamic approach to resolving every workplace conflict.



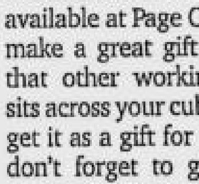
**The New Machiavelli**

It's a dog-eat-dog world. The sooner you realize it, the better. Written by Alistair McAlpine, the book seeks inspiration from philosopher Machiavelli for rules and strategems that can help today's business rulers survive in the jungle of greed that is commerce.



**The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership**

Author John Maxwell combines insights from people who succeeded in the worlds of business, politics, sports and military. In this book, readers will find out the laws of leadership that govern one's personal and organizational effectiveness.



**What We Learned in the Rainforest**

This book shows how business is becoming a complex system. By applying the principles of rainforests, one can learn how to create more profit than ever. Readers learn how one can adapt to changing market conditions.

## WORKPLACE BLUES

# 'Too much politics, too little loyalty'

**By Regina Galang Reyes**

FROM around the globe, office politics still ruin the day for most people at work, says Bob Rosner, internationally syndicated columnist and author of best-sellers "The Boss's Survival Guide" (McGraw Hill 2001) and "Working Wounded: Advice That Adds Insight to Injury" (Warner Books, 1998). With honesty and humor, Rosner answers a few questions from People at Work editor Regina Reyes through email right before he leaves for Manila. He will be conducting two presentations tomorrow, "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "Managing Against the Odds: Advice for the Working Wounded" at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City.

**PaW: You've been receiving a lot of mail from around the globe from your Working Wounded column. Are there commonalities in the problems that people at work bring to you? If so, what are these?**

**Bob:** What I've found is that most of us at work today are wounded. It doesn't matter if we are bosses, employees or entrepreneurs. Work is tougher than it's ever been. Sure there are specific concerns that each group has-for example, employees who feel that they aren't paid enough. But there are also many concerns common to all groups-too much politics, too little loyalty and that it's tough to keep up with all the changes in today's workplace.

**PaW: Do solutions to work problems apply across cultures? How do you give advice to your letter senders across countries?**

**Bob:** I'm very careful to avoid giving "advice" whenever possible. My goal is to ask great questions so the person can figure out the best solution on their own. I try to help them to identify the big issues, explore a variety of options and then develop the best plan for their circumstances. At the same time, most people in the world view the US as being a leader in the way that business is practiced (although recent malfeasance by a number of corporate executives has challenged this notion). So I do try to offer strategies that I've seen work here that are relevant to the circumstances facing the person with the problem.

**PaW: How about management problems and solutions to management problems? Are these similar across countries and cultures?**

**Bob:** A few weeks ago I got a letter from a manager in Zambia, Central Africa. She was struggling with the same issues that the rest of us are-l loyalty, finding and keeping top talent, keeping everyone focused on the job at hand and minimizing politics. There can be regional differences, but based on the thousands of emails that I've gotten from all over the world the workplace is much more similar that most of us realize.

**PaW: What can Filipino professionals, employees and entrepreneurs do so that they can become competitive in the global market?**

**Bob:** It's a jungle out there. You've got to be fast, smart and focused. In this marketplace, it's all about your ability to identify, recruit, retain and motivate top talent. And that's why my presentation is called "12 Steps to Better Bossing." It focuses on both the big picture and specific strategies that you can implement immediately.

**PaW: You've been known to combine fun and drama in your seminars, things that Filipinos love whether they are seminars or movies. How and why did you develop this style of presentation?**

**Bob:** We're all bombarded with information these days. It's tough to get on people's radar screen. Everything that I learned about giving presentations I learned from Mary Poppins. Remember how she sang, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." I'm a big believer that information doesn't have to be boring to be effective.

**PaW: If your participants here were to remember just a few things about your seminars, what would these be and why?**

**Bob:** It's different for both presentations. For the employee presentation, I think the most important thing to remember is how important it is to be constantly upgrading your skills. Too many of us sit back and allow our skills to get dated. It's ironic that most of us work hard to save for our retirement, yet we don't have the same commitment to investing in our most valuable assets-our personal skills at work. For the bossing speech, it would be the importance of identifying and nurturing top talent. That is the primary way you can differentiate yourself from your competition.

THE NEW Bob Rosner ROMY HOMILLADA

**PaW: What are your expectations from your Filipino audience?**

**Bob:** To be ready to laugh and learn about strategies to survive today's chaotic workplace.

**PaW: What can your Filipino audience expect from you in your seminars?**

**Bob:** Lots of information, humor and motivation. My philosophy is that a dead battery can't charge a dead battery, so I'll bring a lot of energy to try to light a fire under all of those who attend.

**PaW: When you leave Manila, what would be an important message that you'd like to leave with your Filipino audience?**

**Bob:** That great times are just around the corner. But it's going to take a lot of hard work to achieve them. Workers and management are going to have to work together better than they ever have to compete in today's turbulent and challenging marketplace.

*(To register for Bob Rosner's seminars tomorrow, call tel. no. 414-0186.)*

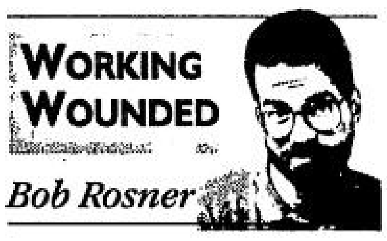
## Power Books invites you to meet Bob Rosner

**BOB ROSNER, author of bestsellers The Boss' Survival Guide and Working Wounded: Advice That Adds Insight to Injury, will be at Power Books, Arnaiz today at 6 p.m. to autograph copies of his book for the public. Power Books invites the public to attend this book signing and get to talk with the author.**

# How do you do an effective performance review?

**DEAR WW: I've never done a performance review. In fact, my only experience with reviews was with a boss who was a pit bull and saw them as a chance to sink his teeth into us. What is your short course on reviews?**

**Sitting in Judgment**



At least your old boss didn't have any extra teeth to sink into your hide. According to the Russian News Agency RIA, Maria Vasilieva grew three new teeth-at the age of 104. Fortunately, Maria says she just wants to sink them into her favorite ginger snaps.

I know what you mean, though. Sometimes it feels like supervisors grow new teeth just for the purpose of performance reviews. Others put off reviews because they dread the process. In fact, when done well, performance reviews are a fabulous tool for boosting employee morale and productivity. The tips below will help you accomplish those goals. For more, consult the #1 Amazon Business Best-Seller, "The Boss's Survival Guide" (McGraw Hill, 2001). (How do I know it's worth recommending? I happen to know the authors: yours truly, Bob Rosner; Allan Halcrow, former editor of Workforce Magazine; and Alan Levins of Littler Mendelson, the largest US employment and labor law firm.)

Make reviews a priority. Research shows employees want reviews. You may think they already know how they're doing, but often they don't. And even if they do, they want their perceptions validated. How would you like to work in a feedback vacuum?

Focus on job performance. Reviews should be objective: your personal feelings about the employee are irrelevant. Review the job description and measure the employee's performance against the standards for the job, not against other employees' performance or your own unwritten standards. Include such things as attendance; cooperation and teamwork; communication skills; and compliance with policies. Be sure to look at the entire review period, not just the last few months.

Consider others' opinions. Much as we'd like to be, none of us is unbiased. Nor do we see every aspect of an employee's performance. So include feedback from peers as well as from the employee herself.

Don't spring surprises. Don't wait until the review to let an employee know he's at risk of being fired-or promoted. Reviews should be just one of many conversations you have about performance.

Set a course for the future. A good review should alert employees about what's next. How can he earn a raise or a promotion? Are there deficiencies she should correct? What are your goals for him for the coming year? If you see no opportunities for advancement, she should know that too.

Meet with the employee. Just handing the review over isn't enough. Make an appointment, sit down for at least 30 minutes and talk through the year's accomplishments and the next year's goals. Spend as much time listening as talking.

Done this way, reviews will give you and your employees constructive material to chew on, and they won't come back to bite you.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABC-news.com online ballot: Which amusement park ride best describes your experience with performance reviews? (1,421 ballots)

--Tunnel of Love, 11.9 percent

--House of Horrors, 21.5 percent

--Bumper Cars, 25 percent

--Merry-Go-Round, 41.4 percent

Our winning strategy for performance reviews comes from a supervisor, Ellen J. in Cyberspace. "I provide a short quarterly review for each employee, recalling a person's performance over an entire year would be very difficult and may tend to overly emphasize only the most recent performance only. To engage the employees, two to three weeks before the end of the quarter I ask each employee to share with me the items they feel most proud of or satisfied with since the last review. It's easy for me to recall the very visible and high priority projects or items our group has worked on, but some of the less visible items are equally important to our operation and could easily be overlooked. These items deserve recognition too. When available, I also always use specific customer feedback to illustrate some of the comments I make: whether it is positive or constructive feedback."

*(E-mail feedback to* bobworkingwounded.com*)*

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

# 'Too much politics, too little loyalty' plague today's workplace

See story on page B11

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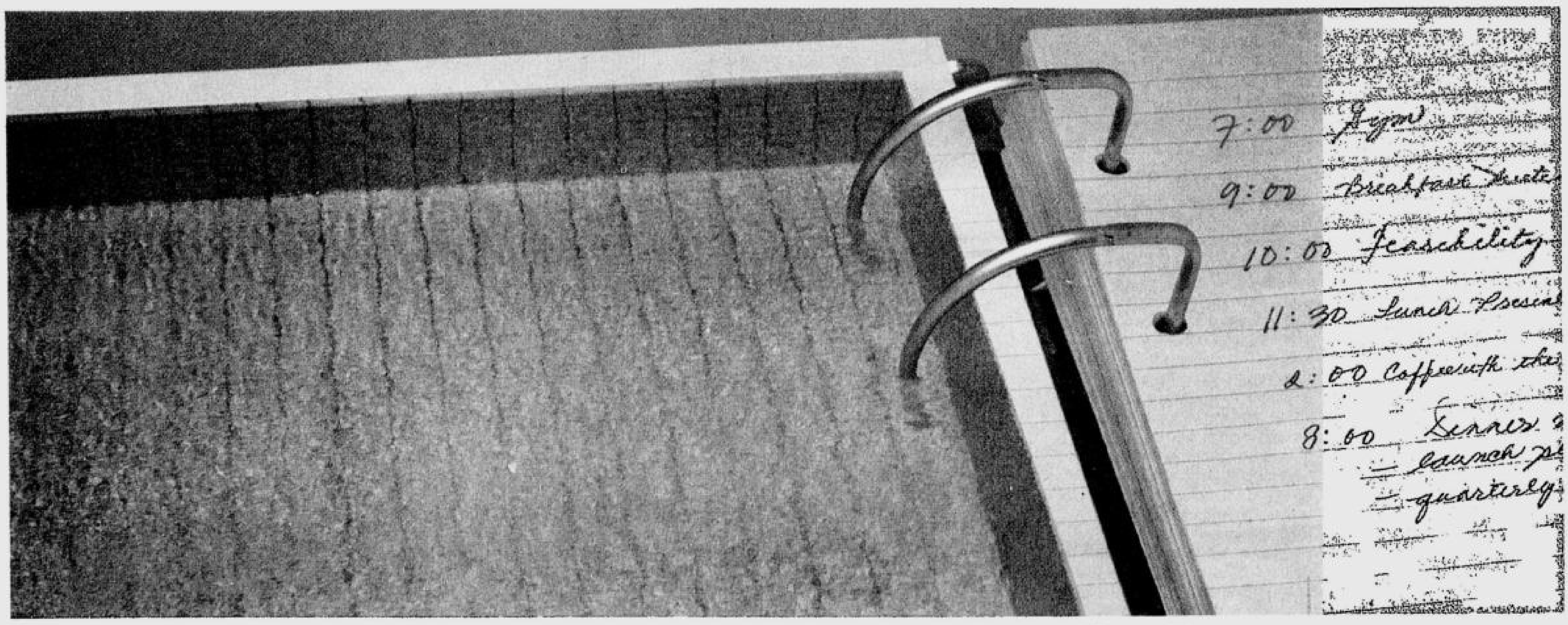

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# BANKING*Quarterly*

*Editor* **Raul O. Marcelo** ■ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

# Banks turn to retail lending to boost profit

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

FACING a dearth in corporate borrowers, local banks are turning to consumer lending to build up their loan portfolio (and, in the process, reduce the ratio of their problematic accounts) and bring in much-needed profit.

Affordable housing and auto loans, quick access to credit cards, Internet and phone banking infrastructure, and, lately, a move toward increasing a bank's flexibility in selling insurance products at its branches are just some of the developments on the retail banking side.

Practically all the exciting things happening in the banking sector are spurred by the need to increase the retail consumer base and for this segment to fill the void that the big companies and industries have left as a result of over-capacity and the economic slowdown in recent years.

Bankers and regulators agree that the action is on the consumer side and that is where lenders should bring their financial operations closer.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura says this is a good time for banks to go deeper into retail, particularly in housing which has a huge multiplier effect to industries like construction and services.

The policy-making Monetary Board, says Buenaventura, has been putting in place policies that would spur lending to consumers. Two weeks ago, the board increased the loan value of end-user housing loans and developers of low- and middle-income housing projects to as much as 90 percent from 70 percent.

The central bank's policy on bancassurance should also be completed soon. What is clear at this point is that banks owning at least 5 percent in an insurance company can use their branches to sell life insurance products of their affiliates.

"If you relate it to macroeconomic numbers, retail is a good source of business for banks because consumer spending remains one of the big drivers of the economy," says Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP deputy governor.

### Consumer growth

Indeed, consumer spending has been fueling a good portion of domestic growth as personal expenditures grew by 3.4 percent in 2001 and again by the same level during the first quarter, offsetting the contraction in public spending last year and a flat growth during the first three months of 2002.

Tetangco, however, cautions lenders that while consumer banking products like credit cards are a good source of income, aggressively pursuing the business must be accompanied with a healthy dose of responsibility.

The central bank, he says, has noticed an increasing level of bad loans among banks providing credit card products and, as a result, consumers were being penalized with higher interest rates.

As of the first quarter, the BSP says the past-due portion of the banking sector's P47.093 billion in receivables from the credit card business had increased to nearly 25 percent. The rising problematic loans from credit cards are

BANKS TURN/ C3

# Invest in T-bills, bonds, bankers recommend

*ON top of their fat salaries, the top guns of the country's largest banks make big money from investments. In recent interviews, The INQUIRER's Elena R. Torrijos asked some of them what their recent investments were and what would they recommend to clients looking for investment options.*

**Simon Paterno**
*President and chief executive*
*Development Bank of the Philippines*

"I haven't made any recent investments. But for someone with P100,000, I would suggest investing in retail treasury bonds. The yields are quite high for relatively moderate maturity—three and five years. They are safe and liquid which are valuable qualities in this environment. I would also look at buying some blue chip stocks, especially the ones foreigners would likely buy, names like Ayala Land Inc. and SM Prime Holdings."

**Edward Go**
*Chair and chief executive*
*United Coconut Planters Bank*

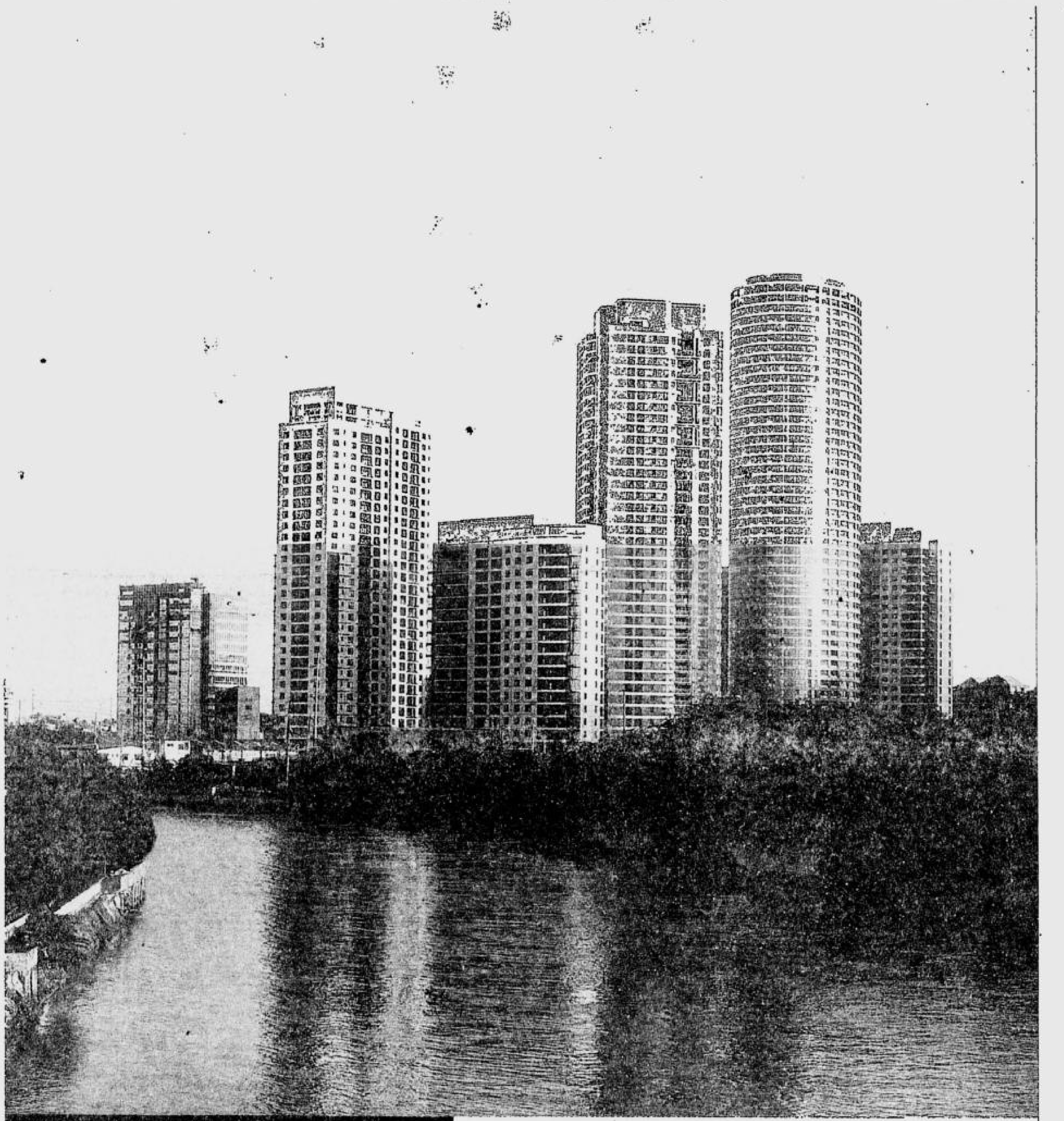
"Most of the savings I have are in bank deposits, but some are in government securities. But I think that right now, if one has money to set aside and he doesn't need interest income, PLDT can be a good buy because its share price is so low now. San Miguel Corp. is also a good long-term investment because it continues to expand and its dividends are increasing. If you were more risk averse then I would advise you to invest in government securities."

**Margarito Teves**
*President and chief executive*
*Land Bank of the Philippines*

"I haven't made any investment recently. Given the situation right now, with P100,000, you may invest in any food-related projects for cash flow. You may also consider treasury bills because they provide higher interest than savings deposits. Although the yields are at historic lows, treasury bills are good as a short- term investment. If there are still retail T-bonds in the market, you may take advantage of those because they provide rates than the 91-day T-bill rate."

**Joey Bermudez**
*President*
*Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp.*

"Some of my colleagues said they have become conservative in investing because of the tough economic times. Most are in time deposits and special savings accounts because these are the safest investment vehicles available through banks. With P100,000, the investor can very well enjoy the decent returns that the recent offerings of Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs), three-year bonds fetching about 7-8 percent and five-year bonds yielding approximately 9-10 percent."



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# How the banks fared

## Total assets of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarter 2002, and 2nd quarter, 2001)

| Ranking Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | Commercial Banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | % Change | Q2 '01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 379,302,964,520 | 380,024,700,378 | -0.2% | 378,479,694,512 |
| 2 | 2 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 331,455,964,163 | 327 884,644,882 | 1.1% | 354,144,051,651 |
| 3 | 3 | Citibank | 265,7[illegible],750,717 | 276,633,986,154 | -3.9% | 257,122,772,188 |
| 4 | 4 | Equitable PCI Bank | 258,347,709,216 | 244,890,181,776 | 5.5% | 238,252,442,638 |
| 5 | 5 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 238,714,930,339 | 235,233,559,226 | 1.5% | 210,912,392,938 |
| 6 | 6 | Philippine National Bank | 189,609,185,816 | 184,697,780,792 | 2.7% | 186,312,968,405 |
| 7 | 7 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 151,996,573,666 | 148,370,083,682 | 2.4% | 173,992,887,266 |
| 8 | 8 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 149,096,219,504 | 147,471,023,379 | 1.1% | 130,414,741,674 |
| 9 | 10 | Allied Banking Corp. | 98,293,396,792 | 95,462,291,019 | 3.0% | 94,024,240,699 |
| 10 | 9 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 96,356,279,298 | 100,303,828,831 | -3.9% | 110,564,599,100 |
| 11 | 11 | China Banking Corp. | 90,637,783,425 | 85,184,383,484 | 6.4% | 77,441,676,373 |
| 12 | 12 | Banco de Oro | 85,231,620,574 | 80,246,777,343 | 6.2% | 67,511,443,069 |
| 13 | 13 | HSBC | 80,276,598,341 | 76,081,164,920 | 5.5% | 76,184,344,361 |
| 14 | 16 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 63,307,908,852 | 53,850,785,632 | 17.6% | 52,021,727,005 |
| 15 | 14 | Security Bank Corp. | 62,822,944,108 | 62,577,402,154 | 0.4% | 62,632,079,840 |
| 16 | 15 | Global Bank | 50,657,771,283 | 54,973,885,904 | -7.9% | 57,168,543,094 |
| 17 | 17 | Prudential Bank | 48,138,022,812 | 45,866,313,558 | 5.0% | 48,790,513,474 |
| 18 | 18 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 42,001,278,851 | 40,934,595,969 | 2.6% | 38,460,279,375 |
| 19 | 20 | International Exchange Bank | 37,058,173,557 | 35,268,234,746 | 5.1% | 34,801,201,423 |
| 20 | 19 | Standard Chartered Bank | 35,658,649,410 | 38,791,626,434 | -8.1% | 40,656,829,938 |
| 21 | 21 | Philippine Trust Co. | 32,789,990,010 | 31,754,861,395 | 3.3% | 30,104,458,465 |
| 22 | 22 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 25,854,728,295 | 26,874,721,292 | -3.8% | 7,213,370,405 |
| 23 | 24 | Bank of Commerce | 24,287,608,919 | 21,349,728,703 | 13 8% | 18,471,530,596 |
| 24 | 25 | Deutsche Bank AG | 22,946,687,852 | 20,935,500,036 | 9.6% | 15,128,622,693 |
| 25 | 23 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 21,866,144,656 | 22,220,107,187 | -1.6% | 22,137,858,523 |
| 26 | 26 | International Commercial Bank of China | 20,977,913,433 | 20,044,806,947 | 4.7% | 17,805,061,930 |
| 27 | 29 | ING Barings | 17,278,646,047 | 15,491,743,418 | 11.5% | 17,542,149,371 |
| 28 | 28 | Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 16,157,029,924 | 15,534,644,942 | 4.0% | 13,481,088,483 |
| 29 | 33 | ABN-Amro Bank | 13,644,861,864 [a] | 12,312,891,437[a] | 10.8% | 12,409,150,107[b] |
| 30 | 30 | East West Bank | 13,620,915,494 | 13,540,702,840 | 0.6% | 12,107,514,451 |
| 31 | 31 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 13,067,818,060 | 13,389,324,044 | -2.4% | 12,790,610,498 |
| 32 | 32 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 12,600,464,644 | 12,854,891,313 | -2.0% | 16,366,966,331 |
| 33 | 34 | Asia United Bank | 12,273,680,206 | 12,053,528,180 | 1.8% | 10,364,359,377 |
| 34 | 36 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 10,880,038,060 | 10,369,641,693 | 4.9% | 9,218,160,014 |
| 35 | 35 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 10,004,841,629 | 10,615,109,653 | -0.1% | 12,741,545,408 |
| 36 | 37 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 9,884,476,709 | 10,242,756,717 | -3.5% | 8,903,955,644 |
| 37 | 38 | Bank of America[d] | 8,811,420,014 | 8,276,894,459 | 6.5% | 13,380,482,213 |
| 38 | 39 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 7,520,838,929 | 6,783,763,228 | 10.9% | 6,723,455,930 |
| 39 | 40 | Korea Exchange Bank | 5,468,279,786 | 6,113,392,250 | -10.6% | 6,014,214,048 |
| 40 | 41 | Bangkok Bank | 3,341,135,456 | 3,718,691,620 | -10.2% | 3,770,299,293 |
| 41 | 42 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 99,798,616 | 101,260,393 | -1.4% | 134,675,525 |
|  |  | TOTAL Php | 2,679,438,278,220 | 2,629,311,291,519 | 1.9% | 2,576,221,263,805 |

## Real and other properties owned or acquired by commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter, 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | % Change | Q2 '01 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Philippine National Bank | 24,906,496,768 | 25,109,032,388 | -0.8% | 22,581,451,151 | 10 3% |
| 2 | 2 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 24,515,188,190 | 24,555,365,131 | -0.2% | 20,051,932,712 | 22.3% |
| 3 | 3 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 21,290,523,060 | 20,557,195,941 | 3.6% | 19,510,627,763 | 9.1% |
| 4 | 4 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 12,535,532,014 | 11,404,833,413 | 9.9% | 9,917,766 820 | 26.4% |
| 5 | 5 | Equitable PCI Bank | 10,483,839,700 | 9,868,351,276 | 6.2% | 8,942,867,188 | 17.2% |
| 6 | 6 | Bank of the Philippines Islands | 9,215,846,598 | 9,062,365,764 | 1.7% | 7,101,346,604 | 29.8% |
| 7 | 7 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 6,694,385,349 | 6,798,502,178 | -1.5% | 6,923,590,467 | -3.3% |
| 8 | 8 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 5,685,849,853 | 5,514,791,486 | 3.1% | 4,509,843,736 | 26.1% |
| 9 | 11 | Banco de Oro | 5,334,785,127 | 4,431,417,626 | 20.4% | 4,293,776 948 | 24.2% |
| 10 | 10 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 5,322,872,885 | 5,001,724,436 | 6.4% | 2,863,216,377 | 85 9% |
| 11 | 9 | Allied Bank | 5,301,684,379 | 5,165,233,201 | 2 6% | 4,321 952,565 | 22.7% |
| 12 | 12 | China Banking Corp. | 4,305,338,306 | 4,312,522,864 | -0.2% | 3,121,633,910 | 37 9% |
| 13 | 13 | Prudential Bank | 3,609,042,686 | 3,565,187,288 | 1 2% | 2,704,388,091 | 33 5% |
| 14 | 14 | Security Bank | 3,535,714,567 | 3,505,611,139 | 0.9% | 2,870,769,367 | 23.2% |
| 15 | 15 | Global Bank | 3,158,395,626 | 3,258,829,573 | -3.1% | 3,404,233,376 | -7.2% |
| 16 | 16 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 3,034,020,947 | 3,017,109,397 | 0.6% | 2,673,448,817 | 13 5% |
| 17 | 17 | International Exchange Bank | 2,372,476,078 | 2,099,567,437 | 13.0% | 1,760,312,922 | 34.8% |
| 18 | 20 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 1,942,761,802 | 923,927 804 | 110 3% | 220 501,774 | 781.1% |
| 19 | 19 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 1,727,252,745 | 1,362,416,978 | 26.8% | 1,504,548,487 | 14.8% |
| 20 | 18 | Bank of Commerce | 1,664,094,212 | 1,518,595,768 | 9.6% | 1,207,745,151 | 37.9% |
| 21 | 21 | East West Bank | 551,731,877 | 554,974,248 | -0.6% | 555,821 631 | -0.7% |
| 22 | 22 | Philippine Trust Co. | 414,369,491 | 411,902,791 | 0.6% | 401,970,072 | 3.1% |
| 23 | 23 | Citibank | 373,119,471 | 382,914,651 | -2.6% | 709,125 | 52516.9% |
| 24 | 24 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 280,566,800 | 282,444,899 | -0.7% | 226,118,276 | 24.1% |
| 25 | 25 | Standard Chartered Bank | 102,677,906 | 125,938,458 | -18.5% | 136,900,817 | -25 0% |
| 26 | 26 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 85,000,000 | 85,000,000 | 0.0% | 32,000 | 265525.0% |
| 27 | 27 | HSBC | 77,189,881 | 77,507,727 | -0.4% | 90,720 125 | -14 9% |
| 28 | 30 | International Commercial Bank of China | 55,928,933 | 55,928,933 | 0 0% | 64,909,995 | -13 8% |
| 29 | 32 | ABN-Amro Bank | 41,992,305 [a] | 35,952,274[a] | 16.8% | 669 699,540 [b] | -93.7% |
| 30 | 31 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 40,078,443 | 40,188,313 | -0.3% | 40,953,444 | -2.1% |
| 31 | 28 | Banco Santander[c] | 25,126,400 | 66,742,000 | -62.4% | 66,742,000 | -62.4% |
| 32 | 34 | Asia United Bank | 7,155,219 | 907,219 | 688.7% | 0 |  |
| 33 | 33 | ING Barings | 1,590,844 | 1,590,844 | 0.0% | - |  |
| 34 |  | Bank of America[d] | 228,622 | - |  | - |  |
| 35 | 35 | Bangkok Bank | 35,877 | 35,877 | 0.0% | 35,877 | 0.0% |
|  |  | TOTAL Php | 158,693,694,962 | 153,154,629,342 | 3.6% | 132,740,565,125 | 19.6% |

## Return on equity
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial Banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | Q2 '01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 58.41% | 30.97% | 69.57% |
| 2 | 1 | HSBC | 30 27% | 32 63% | 21 41% |
| 3 | 5 | Citibank | 28.22% | 17.41% | 34 85% |
| 4 | 6 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 20 83% | 15.86% | 26.50% |
| 5 | 8 | Asia United Bank | 20.63% | 12.16% | 11.21% |
| 6 | 3 | Chinatrust (Phils ) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 20.27% | 26 23% | 8.78% |
| 7 | 4 | Deutsche Bank AG | 16 24% | 25.26% | 37.89% |
| 8 | 14 | China Banking Corp. | 17.51% | 8.30% | 6.38% |
| 9 | 11 | International Exchange Bank | 17.42% | 8.74% | 29.42% |
| 10 | 12 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 13.32% | 8.50% | 5.74% |
| 11 | 10 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 13.00% | 10.76% | 17.99% |
| 12 | 13 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 11.67% | 8.32% | 10.98% |
| 13 | 9 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 10.57% | 10.96% | 13.57% |
| 14 | 7 | ING Barings | 8.08% | 12.99% | 6.84% |
| 15 | 34 | Bank of Commerce | 7.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 16 | 26 | Standard Chartered Bank | 7.75% | 1.21% | 25.65% |
| 17 | 28 | Philippine Trust Co. | 7.13% | 1.07% | 4.13% |
| 18 | 16 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 7.03% | 5.87% | 9.73% |
| 19 | 25 | East West Bank | 6.98% | 2.32% | 2.52% |
| 20 | 20 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 6.30% | 4.93% | 4.45% |
| 21 | 17 | Security Bank Corp. | 5.84% | 5.81% | 5.80% |
| 22 | 23 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 5.40% | 3.00% | 2.10% |
| 23 | 22 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 5.27% | 3.05% | 3.33% |
| 24 | 24 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 4.79% | 2.82% | 6.13% |
| 25 | 18 | Banco de Oro | 4.75% | 5.55% | 6.83% |
| 26 | 21 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 4.48% | 4 35% | 6.71% |
| 27 | 15 | Allied Banking Corp. | 2.81% | 7.00% | 3.82% |
| 28 | 31 | Korea Exchange Bank | 2.80% | 0.29% | 0.49% |
| 29 | 27 | Prudential Bank | 2.23% | 1.16% | -2.29% |
| 30 | 19 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 2.20% | 5.08% | 2.94% |
| 31 | 29 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 1.63% | 1.05% | 1.35% |
| 32 | 32 | Equitable PCI Bank | 1.19% | 0.27% | 1.21% |
| 33 | 30 | Bangkok Bank | 0.60% | 0.65% | -0.27% |
| 34 | 33 | Global Bank | 0.36% | 0.07% | 3.16% |
| 35 | 37 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | -2.71% | -10.42% |  |
| 36 | 40 | Bank of America[d] | -18.17% | -29.11% | 24.65% |
| 37 | 38 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | -22.88% | -24.79% | -7.00% |
| 38 | 39 | Philippine National Bank | -27 00% | -27.00% | -47.00% |
| 39 | 35 | ABN-Amro Bank | -43.54% [a] | -0.86% [a] | 6 82% [b] |
| 40 | 36 | International Commercial Bank of China | -54.42% | -10.23% | 3.99% |
| 41 | 41 | United Coconut Planters Bank | -64.69% | -46.42% | -28.98% |

## Loans, discounts and advances of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial Banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | % Change | Q2 '01 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 154,614,312,478 | 151,055,591,843 | 2.4% | 171,845,841,813 | -10.0% |
| 2 | 2 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 139,645,801,893 | 131,382,669,322 | 6.3% | 140,257,491,187 | -0.4% |
| 3 | 3 | Equitable PCI Bank | 104,025,149,960 | 102,487,268,883 | 1.5% | 100,904,608,042 | 3.1% |
| 4 | 4 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 92,398,248,326 | 108,286,310,056 | -14 7% | 103,169,859,819 | -10.4% |
| 5 | 7 | Citibank | 82,803,819,190 | 72,777,103,496 | 13.8% | 67,981,808,663 | 21.8% |
| 6 | 5 | Philippine National Bank | 69,519,852,552 | 73,411,520,183 | -5.3% | 78,931,110,751 | -11.9% |
| 7 | 6 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 68,135,114,754 | 71,009,240,165 | -4.0% | 76,150,373,914 | -10.5% |
| 8 | 8 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 62,859,001,914 | 63,844,609,867 | -1.5% | 65,689 416,937 | -4.3% |
| 9 | 9 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 43,687,399,882 | 51,678,996,458 | -15.5% | 53,925,074,905 | -19.0% |
| 10 | 10 | Banco de Oro | 37,367,444,956 | 36,521,788,657 | 2.3% | 38,561,515,842 | -3.1% |
| 11 | 11 | China Banking Corp. | 35,510,104,403 | 35,603,477,965 | -0.3% | 35,409,863,665 | 0.3% |
| 12 | 12 | Allied Banking Corp. | 35,424,402 593 | 34,603,325,623 | 2.4% | 37,844,015,803 | -6.4% |
| 13 | 14 | Security Bank Corp | 30,301,547,946 | 30,808,443,293 | -1.6% | 31,276,290,793 | -3.1% |
| 14 | 13 | Global Bank | 29,203,286,332 | 31,183,065,649 | -6.3% | 32,366,715,247 | -9.8% |
| 15 | 27 | Standard Chartered Bank | 20,075,197,927 | 20,220,811,845 | -0.7% | 15,981,590,851 | 25.6% |
| 16 | 16 | International Exchange Bank | 19,570,713,725 | 18,101,739,834 | 8.1% | 19,375,176,867 | 1.0% |
| 17 | 15 | HSBC | 19,522,873,884 | 20,657,458,540 | -5.5% | 20,287,211,074 | -3.8% |
| 18 | 17 | Prudential Bank | 18,095,618,650 | 18,475,905,245 | -2.1% | 19,259,800,195 | -6.0% |
| 19 | 18 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 17,288,029,988 | 17,355,687,431 | -0.4% | 17,638,460,054 | -2.0% |
| 20 | 19 | Philippine Trust Co. | 16,933,987.741 | 15.943.996,540 | 6.2% | 14,158,972,909 | 19.6% |
| 21 | 20 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 13,779,416 940 | 12,989,787,482 | 6.1% | 15,250,564,849 | -9.6% |
| 22 | 35 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 12,424,253,645 | 13,458,881,597 | -7.7% | 3,441,240,907 | 261.0% |
| 23 | 22 | Bank of Commerce | 11,007,167,017 | 10,638,010,546 | 3.5% | 9,364,037,358 | 17.5% |
| 24 | 21 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 9,731,010,568 | 11,030,368,771 | -11.8% | 11,671,295,476 | -16.6% |
| 25 | 31 | ING Barings | 9,172,533,945 | 8,939,285,333 | 2.6% | 10.658,264,972 | -13.9% |
| 26 | 23 | International Commercial Bank of China | 8,814,193,338 | 9,077,581,935 | -2.9% | 10,567,675,666 | -16.6% |
| 27 | 28 | East West Bank | 8,757,600.537 | 8,326,003.561 | 5.2% | 6,202,404,592 | 41.2% |
| 28 | 26 | Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 8,309,983,522 | 8,314,059,279 | 1.0% | 8,475,737,905 | -0.9% |
| 29 | 25 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 8,029,629,981 | 8,431,171,121 | -4.8% | 7,596,664,671 | 5.7% |
| 30 | 29 | Asia United Bank | 8,027,963,786 | 7,539 372,094 | 6.5% | 7,025,333,742 | 14.3% |
| 31 | 33 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 5,116,320,657 | 5,164,787,572 | -0.9% | 4,524,666,798 | 13.1% |
| 32 | 32 | Deutsche Bank AG | 5,100,896,430 | 5,565,505,341 | -8.3% | 4,791,510,976 | 6.5% |
| 33 | 24 | ABN-Amro Bank | 4,856,740,445 [a] | 9,161,069,599 [a] | -47.0% | 9,717 681,864 [b] | -50.0% |
| 34 | 36 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 3,685,347,450 | 3,768,289,825 | -2.2% | 3,320,592,237 | 11.0% |
| 35 | 34 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 2,668,879,168 | 4,126,297,015 | -35.3% | 3,839,916,819 | -30.5% |
| 36 | 37 | Bank of America[d] | 2,298,081,299 | 2,383,295,548 | -3.6% | 3,987,005,164 | -42.4% |
| 37 | 39 | Korea Exchange Bank | 2,112,265,267 | 1,871,287,681 | 12.9% | 1,805,795,453 | 17.0% |
| 38 | 40 | Bangkok Bank | 1,378,254,003 | 1,457,884,381 | -5.5% | 1,184,554,206 | 16.4% |
| 39 | 38 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 1,291,729,749 | 1,900,599,879 | -32.0% | 2,596,323,037 | -50.2% |
| 40 | 41 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 716,504,572 | 587,745,056 | 21.9% | 537,166,840 | 33.4% |
| 41 | 42 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 3,820,076 | 3,864,996 | -1.2% | 20,809,949 | -81.6% |
|  |  | TOTAL Php | 1,224,354,401,487 | 1,240,143,178,526 | -1.3% | 1,267,594,642,904 | -3.4% |

## Non-performing loans of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002 )

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial Banks | Ratio to total loan portfolio Q2 | Ratio to total loan portfolio Q1 | Amount of NPL Q2 | Amount of NPL Q1 | Total loan portfolio Q2 | Total loan portfolio Q1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 80.00% | 80.00% | 7,506,289 | 7,506,289 | 9,382,861 | 9,382,861 |
| 2 | 8 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 60.52% | 25.78% | 10,020,130,768 | 1,094,690,383 | 16,556,726,319 | 4,246,277,669 |
| 3 | 3 | Philippine National Bank | 52.00% | 49.00% | 50,885,000,000 | 47,332,000,000 | 97,855,769,231 | 96,595,918,367 |
| 4 | 4 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 38.04% | 31.87% | 21,153,298,300 | 20,734,540,145 | 55,606,039,695 | 65,059,743,160 |
| 5 | 16 | Bangkok Bank | 31.16% | 15.98% | 587,815,795 | 364,026,732 | 1,886,443,503 | 2,278,014,591 |
| 6 | 6 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 29.00% | 27.87% | 6,750,567,252 | 6,549,113,170 | 23,281,832,220 | 23,498,791,425 |
| 7 | 12 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 28.61% | 21.29% | 1,727,711,906 | 1,521,008,597 | 6,038,839,237 | 7,144,239,535 |
| 8 | 5 | Bank of Commerce | 27.53% | 30.67% | 3,528,480,348 | 3,671,745,826 | 12,817,766,793 | 11,970,221,771 |
| 9 | 7 | Global Bank | 27.05% | 26.05% | 8,960,180,887 | 8,968,960,794 | 33,124,513,445 | 34,429,791,916 |
| 10 | 13 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 24.50% | 4.28% | 28,879,057,604 | 28,654,834,610 | 117,873,704,506 | 669,505,481,542 |
| 11 | 9 | Prudential Bank | 22.80% | 22.79% | 4,605,127,684 | 4,510,475,477 | 20,197,926,439 | 19,791,467,648 |
| 12 | 11 | Allied Banking Corporation | 19.71% | 21.54% | 9,230,196,000 | 9,479,307,000 | 46,830,015,221 | 44,008,203,343 |
| 13 | 18 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 19.56% | 20 96% | 1,352,003,006 | 1,098,434,251 | 6,912,080,807 | 5,240,821,429 |
| 14 | 14 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 19.10% | 19.30% | 17,036,970,000 | 16,196,477,000 | 89,196,795,812 | 83,919,569,948 |
| 15 | 10 | Equitable PCI Bank | 18.44% | 22.05% | 28,148,345,316 | 29,522,433,017 | 152 646,293,482 | 133,888,585,111 |
| 16 | 19 | International Exchange Bank | 14.61% | 11.65% | 3,169,685,715 | 3,113,873,108 | 21,695,316,324 | 26,728,524,532 |
| 17 | 20 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 13.89% | 14.90% | 22,273,000,000 | 22,245,000,000 | 160,352,771,776 | 149,295,302,013 |
| 18 | 29 | Security Bank Corp. | 13.28% | 10 52% | 5,031,769,107 | 4,108,461,837 | 37,889,820,083 | 39,053,819,743 |
| 19 | 28 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 13.09% | 10.55% | 3,464,928,587 | 3,217,996,944 | 26,622,831,070 | 30,502,340,701 |
| 20 | 23 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 13.08% | 13.68% | 10,853,930,864 | 11,368,659,721 | 82,981,122,966 | 83,104,237,727 |
| 21 | 22 | China Banking Corp. | 12.96% | 14.31% | 5,930,687,136 | 5,869,842,085 | 45,761,474,815 | 41,019,162,020 |
| 22 | 17 | Philippine Trust Co. | 12.81% | 15.75% | 2,302,161,421 | 2,707,746,255 | 17,971,595,792 | 17,192,039,716 |
| 23 | 27 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 12.22% | 15.51% | 20,771,724,435 | 18,060,847,536 | 169,981,378,355 | 116,446,470,264 |
| 24 | 24 | East West Bank | 11.60% | 12.42% | 1,081,313,065 | 1,080,302,884 | 9,321,664 353 | 8,698,090,853 |
| 25 | 21 | HSBC | 11.53% | 14.46% | 3,399,684,790 | 3,834,237,000 | 29,485,557,589 | 26,516,161,826 |
| 26 | 25 | Banco de Oro | 11.24% | 11.71% | 6,047,744,683 | 5,672,093,683 | 53,805,557,678 | 48,438,033,160 |
| 27 | 26 | International Commercial Bank of China | 10.14% | 2.52% | 988,271,520 | 1,187,114,743 | 9,746,267,535 | 47,107,727,897 |
| 28 | 30 | Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 8.57% | 8.02% | 795,807,708 | 743,571 940 | 9,285,970,917 | 9,271,470,578 |
| 29 | 31 | Standard Chartered Bank | 8.17% | 7.44% | 1,882,333,941 | 1,810,040,026 | 23,039,583,121 | 24,328,494,873 |
| 30 | 15 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 7.21% | 15.42% | 195,451,377 | 196,931,221 | 2,710,837,406 | 1,277,115,571 |
| 31 | 33 | Asia United Bank | 6.33% | 5.83% | 576,683,186 | 471,072,484 | 9,110,318,897 | 8,080,145,517 |
| 32 | 34 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 5.30% | 10.83% | 479,976,611 | 497 105,536 | 9,056,162,472 | 4,590,078,818 |
| 33 | 32 | Deutsche Bank AG | 4.88% | 7.07% | 586,660,000 | 768,300,251 | 12,021,721,311 | 10,867,047,394 |
| 34 | 37 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 2.94% | 3.50% | 149,123,381 | 149,123,381 | 5,072,223,844 | 4,260,668,029 |
| 35 | 36 | Korea Exchange Bank | 2.27% | 18.45% | 55,082,412 | 78,821,724 | 2,423,335,308 | 1,246,000,000 |
| 36 | 38 | ING Barings | 2.08% | 14.46% | 275,040,039 | 376,677,183 | 13,223,079,798 | 2,604,959,774 |
| 37 | 39 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 1.95% | 1.90% | 220,019,997 | 219,504,103 | 11,283,076,769 | 11,552,847,526 |
| 38 | 40 | Citibank | 1.26% | 1.26% | 1,752,147,397 | 1,785,255,114 | 139,059,317,190 | 141,686,913,825 |
| 39 | 35 | ABN-Amro Bank | 0.77% | 4.58% | 57,510,666 | 446,858,956 | 7,468,917,662 | 9,756,745,764 |
| 40 | 42 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 0.00% | 0.00% | - | - | 3,473,508,837 | 3,473,508,837 |
| 41 | 41 | Bank of America[d] | 0.00% | 0.07% | 12,018 | 1,737,418 | 2,296,810,337 | 2,482,025,714 |
|  |  | Total Php |  |  | 285,233,140,241 | 269,716,760,427 | 1,595,960,372,776 | 2,071,166,243 088 |

## Total deposit accounts of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | % Change | Q2 '01 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 291,307,817,240 | 299,741,125,921 | -2.8% | 302,619,168,590 | -3.7% |
| 2 | 2 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 263,911,763,470 | 260,526,028,885 | 1.3% | 279,879,694,202 | -5.7% |
| 3 | 3 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 175,239,983,366 | 174,882,924,710 | 0.2% | 155,156,592,772 | 12.9% |
| 4 | 4 | Equitable PCI Bank | 156,761,932,183 | 154,748,773,504 | 1.3% | 132,584,652,808 | 18.3% |
| 5 | 5 | Citibank | 145,600,028,478 | 144,229,043,180 | 1.1% | 140,402,762,654 | 3.8% |
| 6 | 6 | Philippine National Bank | 133,089,892,401 | 129 587 266,808 | 2.7% | 124,807,000,160 | 6.6% |
| 7 | 7 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 101,315,591,776 | 103,148 061,214 | -1.8% | 94,947,724,367 | 6 7% |
| 8 | 8 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 81,433,327,696 | 80,594 452,142 | 1.0% | 87,226,620,783 | -6.6% |
| 9 | 9 | Allied Banking Corp. | 80,331,819,713 | 79,050,227,631 | 1.6% | 77,047,637,643 | 4.3% |
| 10 | 10 | China Banking Corp. | 67,025 068,562 | 63,816,941,970 | 5.0% | 56,148,081,738 | 19.4% |
| 11 | 11 | Banco de Oro | 62,096,503,641 | 59,816,553,218 | 3.8% | 49,471,539 621 | 25.5% |
| 12 | 12 | HSBC | 60,168,284,097 | 51,724,712,418 | 16.3% | 58,896,660,784 | 2.2% |
| 13 | 17 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 41,420,006,903 | 32,186 243,038 | 28.7% | 28,088,841,603 | 47.5% |
| 14 | 13 | Security Bank Corp. | 38,232,401 087 | 39,183,453,736 | -2.4% | 42,334,784,460 | -9.7% |
| 15 | 16 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 37,368,663,479 | 33,098,550,703 | 12.9% | 29,400,868,442 | 27.1% |
| 16 | 15 | Prudential Bank | 36,490,740,324 | 35,813,430,815 | 1.9% | 35,355 359,454 | 3.2% |
| 17 | 18 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 31,673,016,096 | 30,617,212,312 | 2.8% | 25,994,924,100 | 21.8% |
| 18 | 14 | Global Bank | 30,900,315,605 | 36,578,298,777 | -15.5% | 45,194,728,393 | -31.6% |
| 19 | 19 | International Exchange Bank | 29,713 822,770 | 28,818,314,419 | 3.1% | 28,367,586,284 | 4.7% |
| 20 | 20 | Philippine Trust Co. | 28,151,000,852 | 27,068,483,389 | 4.0% | 25,461,853,614 | 10.6% |
| 21 | 21 | Standard Chartered Bank | 22,011,762 570 | 22 867,455,429 | -3 7% | 26,724,317,999 | -17 6% |
| 22 | 22 | Bank of Commerce | 18,186,558,463 | 16,233,936,887 | 12.0% | 13 719,718,736 | 32.6% |
| 23 | 23 | Deutsche Bank AG | 17,776,867,534 | 14,742,266,676 | 20 6% | 8,673,636 455 | 105.0% |
| 24 | 26 | Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 11,006,381,948 | 10,827,744,217 | 1.6% | 8,837,496,646 | 24.5% |
| 25 | 25 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 10,879,486,312 | 12,393,778,739 | -12 2% | 10,606,219,661 | 2.6% |
| 26 | 27 | East West Bank | 9,619,287,533 | 9 669,971,002 | -0.5% | 8,441,488,170 | 14.0% |
| 27 | 28 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 8,034,319,957 | 8,392,796,010 | -4.3% | 8,159,806,060 | -1.5% |
| 28 | 33 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 7,196,649,164 | 5,311,808,009 | 35.5% | 4,703,833,861 | 53.0% |
| 29 | 34 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 6,229,449,978 | 4,422,388,086 | 40.9% | 6,094,933,576 | 2.2% |
| 30 | 30 | Asia United Bank | 6,084,641 066 | 5,962,273,197 | 2.1% | 5,598,546,217 | 8.7% |
| 31 | 31 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 5,828,604,842 | 5,862 466,860 | -0.6% | 5,333,655,247 | 9.3% |
| 32 | 35 | ING Barings | 5,716,950,115 | 4,288,150,538 | 33.3% | 5,221,661,600 | 9.5% |
| 33 | 32 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 5,514,606,483 | 5,348,044,517 | 3.1% | 2,569,131,396 | 114.6% |
| 34 | 38 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 4,247,322,673 | 3,693,642,631 | 15.0% | 3,726,624,419 | 14.0% |
| 35 | 36 | Bank of America[d] | 3,924,231,741 | 3,823,117,343 | 2.6% | 7,164,559,519 | -45.2% |
| 36 | 37 | Korea Exchange Bank | 3,289,837,932 | 3,744,175,651 | -12.1% | 2,636,619,661 | 24.8% |
| 37 | 29 | ABN-Amro Bank | 3,077,333,660 [a] | 6,693,384,463 [a] | -54.0% | 7,236,946,949 [b] | -57.5% |
| 38 | 39 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 2,740,035,324 | 3,462,242,205 | -20.9% | 4,496,329,769 | -39.1% |
| 39 | 40 | International Commercial Bank of China | 2,102,031,985 | 2,864,752,212 | -26.6% | 2,513,843,410 | -16.4% |
| 40 | 41 | Bangkok Bank | 446,653,374 | 487,534 354 | -8.4% | 422 056 906 | 5.8% |
| 41 | 42 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 325,080,177 | 317,551,057 | 2.4% | 306,452,470 | 6 1% |
|  |  | Total Php | 2,046,692,074.591 | 2 016,838.577,875 | 1.5% | 1,962,664 961,437 | 4.3% |

## Total capital accounts of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial banks | Q2 | 01 | % Change | Q2 '01 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 50,436,018,376 | 49 490 115,493 | 1.9% | 51 074,956,607 | -1.3% |
| 2 | 2 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 49,345,095,619 | 49,163,235,211 | 0.4% | 47 591,043,210 | 3.7% |
| 3 | 3 | Equitable PCI Bank | 40,476,088,835 | 42,081,496,925 | -3.8% | 44,529,531,792 | -9.1% |
| 4 | 4 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 20,794,474 560 | 19,894,722,026 | 4 5% | 18,630,253,722 | 11 6% |
| 5 | 5 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 18,402,975,010 | 18,781,356,562 | -2 0% | 17,291,956,376 | 6.4% |
| 6 | 6 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 14,954,213,569 | 15,275,555,198 | -2.1% | 13,877,248,523 | 7.8% |
| 7 | 7 | Philippine National Bank | 14,324,394,465 | 13,987,898,950 | 2.4% | 15,457,219,417 | -7.3% |
| 8 | 8 | China Banking Corp. | 14,322,910,060 | 13,363,708,602 | 7.2% | 12,250,453 102 | 16.9% |
| 9 | 9 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 13,217,525,455 | 13,157,404,364 | 0.5% | 12,439,176,673 | 6.3% |
| 10 | 11 | Banco de Oro | 13,175,098 556 | 11,348,736,229 | 16.1% | 8,361,137,926 | 57.6% |
| 11 | 10 | Allied Banking Corp. | 12,393,529,527 | 12,461,937,383 | -0.5% | 11,776,850,737 | 5.2% |
| 12 | 12 | Security Bank Corp. | 9,314,795,156 | 9,229,070,502 | 0.9% | 8,780,523,575 | 6.1% |
| 13 | 13 | Prudential Bank | 8,210,006,591 | 8,061,857,599 | 1.8% | 8,089,266,178 | 1.5% |
| 14 | 14 | Global Bank | 7,466,932,105 | 7,553,735,269 | -1 1% | 7,365,753,568 | 1.4% |
| 15 | 15 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 6,401,621,804 | 6,387,243,100 | 0.2% | 6 139,695,601 | 4.3% |
| 16 | 17 | Citibank | 4,658,461,551 | 4,658,034,937 | 0.0% | 4,653,719 035 | 0.1% |
| 17 | 16 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 4,269,793,625 | 5,234,692,290 | -18.4% | 9,181,733,998 | -53 5% |
| 18 | 18 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 4,202,097,607 | 4,000,674,096 | 5.0% | 2,743,165,748 | 53.2% |
| 19 | 19 | Philippine Trust Co. | 3,814,213,930 | 3,764,119,892 | 1.3% | 3,511,769,068 | 8.6% |
| 20 | 20 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 3,771,374,237 | 3,721,727,492 | 1.3% | 3,626,231,195 | 4.0% |
| 21 | 21 | International Exchange Bank | 3,768,345,592 | 3,653,837,830 | 3.1% | 3,508,299,786 | 7.4% |
| 22 | 22 | Bank of Commerce | 3,553,699,623 | 3,378,587,521 | 5.2% | 3,482,289,668 | 2.1% |
| 23 | 23 | Chinatrust (Phils ) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 3,297,306,876 | 3,141,917,149 | 4.9% | 2,775,839,132 | 18.8% |
| 24 | 24 | Asia United Bank | 3,011,040,628 | 2,876,120,880 | 4.7% | 2,743,645,343 | 9.7% |
| 25 | 25 | East West Bank | 2,784,608,002 | 2,709,667,870 | 2.8% | 2,681,525,162 | 3.8% |
| 26 | 26 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 2,615,100,074 | 2,612,943,856 | 0.1% | 2,515,323,665 | 4.0% |
| 27 | 28 | ABN-AMRO Bank | 2,355,843,453 [a] | 2,453,052,001 [a] | -4 0% | 1,659,797,011 [b] | 41.9% |
| 28 | 27 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 2,349,569,460 | 2,544,772,832 | -7.7% | 1,780,602,182 | 32.0% |
| 29 | 30 | HSBC | 1,350,000,000 | 1,350,000,000 | 0.0% | 1,350,000,000 | 0.0% |
| 30 | 31 | Standard Chartered Bank | 1,243,200,000 | 1,240,000,000 | 0.3% | 1,240,000,000 | 0.3% |
| 31 | 32 | ING Barings | 1,241,556,383 | 1,238,084,497 | 0.3% | 1,237,500,000 | 0.3% |
| 32 | 33 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 720,433,671 | 720,433,671 | 0.0% | 720,433,671 | 0.0% |
| 33 | 34 | Deutsche Bank AG | 625,000,000 | 625,000,000 | 0.0% | 625,000,000 | 0.0% |
| 34 | 35 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 601,912 599 | 601,912,599 | 0.0% | 601,912,599 | 0.0% |
| 35 | 36 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 529,064,913 | 501,484,255 | 5.5% | 371,830,703 | 42.3% |
| 36 | 37 | Bank of America[d] | 422,500,000 | 422,500,000 | 0.0% | 422,500,000 | 0.0% |
| 37 | 38 | International Commercial Bank of China | 405,434,000 | 405,434,000 | 0.0% | 448,390,660 | -9.6% |
| 38 | 39 | Bangkok Bank | 265,831,677 | 265,831,677 | 0.0% | 265,831,677 | 0.0% |
| 39 | 40 | Korea Exchange Bank | 257,000,000 | 257,000,000 | 0.0% | 257,000,000 | 0.0% |
| 40 | 41 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 240,517,236 | 234,020,431 | 2.8% | 266,583,906 | -9.8% |
| 41 | 42 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | (252,651,467) | (242,364.094) | -4 2% | (205,606,095) | -22.9% |
|  |  | Total Php | 345,336,933,347 | 342,007,565,036 | -0.8% | 336,122,425,120 | -2.7% |

## Investment in bonds and other debt instruments of commercial banks[i]
## (1st and 2nd quarters 2002, and 2nd quarter 2001)

| Ranking Q2 | Q1 | Commercial banks | Q2 '02 | Q1 '02 | % Change | Q2 '01 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 96,531,158,764 | 86,321,760,656 | 11.8% | 87,496,007,298 | 10.3% |
| 2 | 3 | Land Bank of the Philippines | 86,510,863,603 | 62,057,055,743 | 39.4% | 56,953,078,169 | 51.9% |
| 3 | 2 | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | 67,880,262,498 | 75,359,020,662 | -9.9% | 83,880,924,973 | -19.1% |
| 4 | 5 | Philippine National Bank | 37,276,387,767 | 34,686,644,097 | 7.5% | 32,162,278,054 | 15.9% |
| 5 | 4 | Citibank | 32,343,934,656 | 36,648 292,850 | -11.7% | 34,713,817,104 | -6.8% |
| 6 | 6 | China Banking Corp. | 30,396,364,681 | 27,479,449,176 | 10.6% | 13,273,943,695 | 129.0% |
| 7 | 9 | Development Bank of the Philippines | 23,389,331,256 | 19,925,594,662 | 17.4% | 17,761,369,076 | 31.7% |
| 8 | 14 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 22,441,356,908 | 9,514,498,890 | 135.9% | 15,358,346,744 | 46.1% |
| 9 | 7 | HSBC | 21,105,793,333 | 21,471,237,453 | -1.7% | 22,688,193,789 | -7.0% |
| 10 | 8 | Equitable PCI Bank | 20,449,545,484 | 21,419,139,742 | -4.5% | 21,251,366,927 | -3.8% |
| 11 | 12 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 16,884,190,739 | 14 357,183,383 | 17.6% | 9,046,501,721 | 86 6% |
| 12 | 10 | Allied Banking Corp | 15,877,851,004 | 16.042 239,099 | -1.0% | 21,241,778,455 | -25.3% |
| 13 | 11 | Banco de Oro | 13,943,812,672 | 14,932,305,468 | -6.6% | 11,586,347,124 | 20.3% |
| 14 | 13 | Prudential Bank | 12,051,545,161 | 11,554,642,443 | 4.3% | 9,950,507,109 | 21.1% |
| 15 | 16 | Philippine Trust Co. | 8,042,055,764 | 6,763,918,204 | 18 9% | 4,979,459,185 | 61 5% |
| 16 | 15 | Global Bank | 6,776,792,724 | 8,509,702,346 | -20.4% | 8,832,035,706 | -23.3% |
| 17 | 19 | International Exchange Bank | 6,599,228,846 | 6,187,141,492 | 6.7% | 6,442,461,255 | 2.4% |
| 18 | 18 | Security Bank Corp. | 6,017,837,138 | 6,367,312,188 | -5 5% | 7,675,346,807 | -21.6% |
| 19 | 21 | Philippine Bank of Communications | 6,007,036,358 | 5,298,136,827 | 13.4% | 3,260,100 447 | 84.3% |
| 20 | 17 | Standard Chartered Bank | 5,978,384,864 | 6,510,667,798 | -8.2% | 5,370.440,323 | 11.3% |
| 21 | 22 | United Coconut Planters Bank | 5,822,759,966 | 4,981,019,241 | 16.9% | 10,672,808,647 | -45.4% |
| 22 | 23 | Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp. | 4,321,094,845 | 4,140,070,140 | 4.4% | 3,226,718 229 | 33 9% |
| 23 | 24 | Bank of Commerce | 3,508,669,739 | 3,263,259,524 | 7.5% | 2,945,272,339 | 19.1% |
| 24 | 26 | Philippine Veterans Bank | 3,081,537,844 | 2,759,461,312 | 11.7% | 3,411,116,449 | -9.7% |
| 25 | 25 | Export and Industry Bank[e] | 2,875,427,110 | 2,949,860,129 | -2.5% | 1,013,480 916 | 183.7% |
| 26 | 27 | Bank of America[d] | 2,251,727,156 | 2,217,042,940 | 1.6% | 2,778,186,324 | -18 9% |
| 27 | 28 | Mizuho Corporate Bank[h] | 1,879,006,165 | 1,838 236 934 | 2.2% | 281,318,008 | 567.9% |
| 28 | 30 | Maybank Phils. Inc.[g] | 1,065,704,031 | 1,078,668,767 | -1.2% | 1,109,914,811 | -4.0% |
| 29 | 33 | East West Bank | 1,015,842,155 | 798 259.513 | 27.3% | 1,218,974,893 | -16.7% |
| 30 | 32 | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group | 994,008,958 | 935,983,681 | 6 2% | 949,012.179 | 4.7% |
| 31 | 29 | JP Morgan Chase Bank[f] | 917,322,945 | 1,508,491,679 | -39 2% | 2,161,287,486 | -57 6% |
| 32 | 31 | ING Barings | 818,459,623 | 936,985,109 | -12.6% | 1,296,877,127 | -36.9% |
| 33 | 35 | Banco Santander Phils. Inc.[c] | 751,236,842 | 705,614 923 | 6.5% | 795,297 693 | -5.5% |
| 34 | 36 | Asia United Bank | 715,701,141 | 681,461,347 | 5 0% | 781,038,956 | -8.4% |
| 35 | 34 | Korea Exchange Bank | 667,925,980 | 724,913,984 | -7.9% | 801,894,177 | -16.7% |
| 36 | 37 | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. | 498,432,204 | 510,337,767 | -2.7% | 505,703,858 | -1.8% |
| 37 | 39 | ABN-Amro Bank | 137,659,531 [a] | 233,262,336 [a] | -41.0% | 95,241,691 [b] | 44.5% |
| 38 | 41 | International Commercial Bank of China | 48,120,923 | 10,795,620 | 345.7% | 690,532,318 | -93.0% |
| 39 | 38 | Bangkok Bank | 29,014,455 | 284,827,604 | -89 8% | 294,502,640 | -90.1% |
| 40 | 40 | Al-Amanah Islamic Bank | 14,068,291 | 14,147,457 | -0.6% | 13,875,459 | 1.4% |
| 41 | 42 | Deutsche Bank AG | - | - |  | - |  |
|  |  | Total Php | 567,921,458,122 | 521,986,822,277 | 8 8% | 508,907,357,166 | 11.6% |

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[a] 1st & 2nd quarters 2002 figure=merged ABN-Amro and TA Bank

[b] sum of ABN-Amro and TA Bank figures before merger, except NPL and ROE ratios=ABN Amro only

ABN Amro, 2Q '01: Assets=10.6B, Bonds=93M, Capital=776M; Deposits=6 9B; Loans=9.3B; Ropoa=37M; NPL ratio=3.39%; NPL amount=318M; ROE=6 82%

TA Bank, 2Q '01: Assets=1.6B, Bonds=2M; Capital=684M; Deposits=313M; Loans=457M; Ropoa=633M; NPL ratio=28%; NPL amount=271,527; ROE=-11 35%

[c] Banco Santander total loan portfolio amount derived from its reported Dosri amount & Dosri ratio

*Sources: Published statements of condition, BSP*

[d] Banco of America total loan portfolio amount derived from its reported Dosri amount & Dosri ratio

[e] Used combined Export Bank & Urban Bank NPL ratio and amount, Urban Bank only: NPL ratio=79.32%; Export Bank only: NPL ratio=23.52%

[f] Formerly Chase Manhattan Bank

[g] Maybank=no ROE reported for 2Q 2001

[h] Formerly Fuji Bank Ltd

[i] United Overseas Bank did not publish its 2nd-quarter 2002 Statement of Condition

*Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

# Banks become less discerning as credit card race heats up

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDIT cards used to take up the biggest share of most banks' consumer lending business. While the product has yet to saturate a country of 80 million, banks see less action in the plastic cash sector in the coming months.

Even Annemarie Durbin, chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank, one of the most aggressive in the credit card business, believes competition in the sector this year will cool down.

Durbin says there are too many players, particularly foreign lenders, competing in the credit card business.

It does not help, too, she says, that some banks have been less circumspect in getting new clients, bloating not only their bad accounts but also smearing the industry's reputation.

As of the first quarter of the year, the value of soured credit card loans has gone up to nearly a fourth of the banking system's P47.093 billion in receivables from 21.6 percent of P47.614 billion in the fourth quarter of 2001, even as the credit card exposure of banks slid by P667 million, or by 1.4 percent, in the first quarter from the previous quarter.

Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. is among those that have temporarily dropped their plans to go into the credit card business.

Chinatrust president Joey Bermudez says the credit card sector is "very saturated and too competitive," conditions that may be harsh for new players.

"I don't think the market can sustain the competition at this point. I think that if you want to do well in the credit card business, you have to be super-aggressive, and that may not be too prudent," says Bermudez.

### Less discriminating

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura says the only ones he will encourage to venture into the credit card business are banks with the system and size to handle problematic accounts.

The stiff competition in the credit card business is forcing banks to spend more on their marketing campaigns. Most have brought the action to shopping malls, where potential customers loll.

Chinatrust's Bermudez says the numbers game may be making banks less cautious and less selective with their clients.

This diminishing discrimination is the crux of the central bank's growing concern with the credit card industry.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes says the past due portion of credit card receivables must only be between 15 and 17 percent, comparable to the non-performing loan ratio of commercial banks, which stood at 18 percent as of the first half.

### Self-regulation

Buenaventura says while the central bank is planning to impose stricter measures on the industry, credit card operators must police their own ranks and help each other prevent fraud and delinquency.

"We want to see progress in their data exchange for them to share a blacklist to shut out the unscrupulous ones who take advantage of their lax credit investigation," he says.

The central bank wants credit card operators to address fraud and delinquency that, it believes, are factors pushing interest rates on plastic cash above average levels.

Credit card companies charge about 3.25 percent monthly, or about 40 percent per annum, as compared to a yearly interest of about 12 to 15 percent for a regular bank loan.

Of course, credit card operators do not require any collateral, and cash is almost always on hand. In exchange for the convenience and the risks, banks would have to charge a higher rate for loans secured through credit cards.

"It is a risk-return situation, and I believe the rates are still warranted and reasonable," says Antonio Moncupa, executive vice president of International Exchange Bank.

### Plans

Buenaventura says proper credit investigation, a practice now loosely applied by lenders because of competition, is still key to prudent banking operations.

With the growing clamor among consumers for credit card rates to go down, however, the BSP says it can introduce measures to make sure that banks will observe prudent banking procedures and not charge their mistakes or the notoriety of bad customers to honest and good-paying credit cardholders.

Among the measures being proposed, says Reyes, is to increase the provisioning requirement on credit card loans.

Foreign banks normally put a 400-percent provisioning for credit card loans because, after 90 days, they usually write off unpaid debts.

Reyes says local banks allow for a longer reckoning period stretching from 90 to 180 days.

Also being planned is a moratorium on allowing banks to put up separate credit card companies. The central bank is also planning to regulate franchising agreements between banks and credit card firms.

"We could regulate these practices and ask banks to renew their tie-ups on a yearly basis. We have to know where the problem lies, whether it is with the banks or because of the conditions imposed by the tie-up," says Reyes.

Reyes believes credit card rates are too high because most credit cardholders subsidize delinquent borrowers.

Another BSP official explains, however, that credit card companies actually make more money not from those who pay on time but from delinquent ones who only pay the minimum amount due.

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# Banks turn to retail lending to boost profit

From page C1

prompting the central bank to consider stricter measures for the industry.

Antonio Moncupa, executive vice president of International Exchange Bank, argues that banks going into the plastic money business have the expertise. He believes that the rates for credit card purchases are reasonable given the potential risks from the business.

Moncupa, whose bank's assets rose by 5.1 percent during the second quarter to P37.05 billion, says consumer financing provides lenders with a new, and perhaps, more reliable source of income where the revenue stream is more stable and the chances of borrowers defaulting would be less.

Omar Cruz, chief finance officer of the University of Asia and the Pacific, says now will also be a good time for consumers to take advantage of declining interest rates and borrow money from the banks to buy a house, a car, or both.

"Today is a buyers' market especially for housing where we are seeing single-digit rates and renewed competition that we haven't seen for a long time," Cruz points out.

### Housing loans

A price-war on housing loans, initiated by Chinatrust Bank whose assets grew by 4 percent to P16.16 billion as of the second quarter, was one that industry giants like Bank of the Philippine Islands and its BPI Family Bank joined in.

Second-largest BPI's assets grew by 1.1 percent to P331.455 billion during the second quarter as deposits rose by 1.3 percent to P263.91 billion.

The improving prospects for retail banking is also the reason why more and more lenders are on the hunt for smaller banks that can provide the network in the more remote areas and tap a larger number of consumers.

The world's largest, Citibank N.A., the third-largest in the country with assets of P265.8 billion as of the second quarter (down 4 percent from P276.6 billion) has been on the prowl for a small savings bank since last year.

Not to be outdone, Standard Chartered Bank is also reportedly on the hunt for an acquisition to improve its retail base. Both Citibank and Stanchart are following the tack taken by HSBC when it bought PCIB Savings in late 2000.

Stanchart president Annemarie Durbin says the bank will engage in home mortgage financing next year and add this to a growing list of consumer banking products.

"We are really hoping that consumer loans will kick in to complement the wholesale banking business," Durbin says.

Stanchart stood at No. 20 as its assets of P35.66 billion as of the second quarter went down by 8.1 percent from P38.79 billion while HSBC ranked 13 in terms of assets with P80.28 billion.

Among the local banks, the Gotianun-owned East West Bank, which had been relatively restrained, surprised the market when it announced its plans of buying Equitable PCI Bank's subsidiary Ecology Bank and its 39 branches.

Fourth-largest Equitable PCI posted a 5.5-percent improvement in its assets to P258.347 billion during the second quarter from P244.89 billion during the first three months.

The Gotianun bank, a mid-sized commercial lender with assets of P13.62 billion, is obviously making moves to improve its ranking in the industry.

Bank of Commerce and Asia United Bank were again rivals, this time for the ownership of First e-Bank of the Metro Pacific Group. The Cojuangco-owned Bancommerce and AUB of the Jacinto Ng family (owners of Rebisco) used to compete for the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc.

As of the second quarter, the operations of these middle-sized commercial banks improved as Bancommerce increased its asset base by 13.8 percent to P24.29 billion while AUB also managed to bring its assets up by 1.8 percent to P12.27 billion.

Export Industry Bank, which eventually won the right to merge Urban Bank's operations with its own, suffered a 3.8-percent drop in its asset base to P25.85 billion.

### PNB and UOB

Two banks with substantial problematic accounts clinched two separate deals during the second quarter that should help improve their finances in the coming period.

Philippine National Bank, on the strength of a debt-to-equity agreement forged by the government and taipan Lucio Tan last May, is now back under government control and the priority of the new team running the bank is to bring down its non-performing loans substantially over the next three to five years.

In June, the Singaporean owners of United Overseas Bank also bought full control of the mid-sized lender, ending a dispute among its shareholders that have been putting depositors on the edge. But UOB failed to publish a statement of conditions during the second quarter.

As of the second quarter, the bad accounts of PNB rose to 52 percent or to P50.88 billion of total loans, trailing Export Industry Bank whose NPLs of P10.02 billion took up 60.52 percent of total loans from a ratio of only 25.78 percent or P1.094 billion of total loans during the previous quarter.

Unlike with PNB, prospects for United Coconut Planters Bank are not as rosy and the bank's recovery remains sketchy at this point even as its non-performing loans continued to go up to 38.04 percent in the second quarter from 31.87 during the previous three-month period.

UCPB's return on equity as of the second quarter continued to drop to an alarming rate of a negative 64.69 percent from a negative 46.42 percent in the first quarter. PNB's negative return-on-equity was steady at 27 percent.

The BSP says the bank must find a buyer for its 95-percent sequestered stake who will not only shell out some P2 billion to buy the country's 10th largest lender but also put in P10 billion in fresh capital to resuscitate its operations.

But the bank's sale hinges on the approval of several coconut farmer groups and also of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, all claiming ownership of the bank.

"The second quarter was an improvement and I can say that generally, banks did well as rates went down, profit picture went up, and thus, it would improve the banks' chances of bringing down their NPLs," Moncupa says.

But the blight in the horizon remains the continued downturn of the US economy, the dragging weakness of Japan, and an uncertain outlook in Europe. On the local front, the increasing government deficit continues to be a source of much jitters. Still, many banks are hoping that retail lending will keep them afloat in the meantime.

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See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2848 Series of 2002

# 'What we need is more people, pay, and a totality approach'

*HIS name inspires confidence and that, maybe, is one of the secrets of Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis' staying power in the insurance sector.*

*Malinis earned the complete trust of four Philippine Presidents for them to keep him at the Insurance Commission for 15 years now.*

*Former President Corazon Aquino named him the agency's deputy commissioner in 1987.*

*Malinis was appointed chief of the Insurance Commission in 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos and was retained by former President Joseph Estrada. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo reappointed him last year.*

**Q&A**

*A native of Bacoor, Cavite, he earned his law degree from Lyceum of the Philippines. He started his career in the insurance sector in 1963 as legal officer at the office of the insurance commissioner. He worked his way up to the post of division chief by 1975.*

*In the same year, Malinis became the general manager of the Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines, a program of the local government ministry to create awareness on insurance among the country's farmers and fishermen. He stayed with this agency up to 1987.*

*Malinis takes pride in the fact the insurance has remained stable all these years, that not a single insurance firm has shut down due to poor financial management all these years and that very few of the non-life or general insurance firms have closed shop for that reason.*

*Malinis is not much of a talker. His speeches are short and to the point, although he likes to crack a few jokes every now and then.*

*INQUIRER's Elena R. Torrijos recently interviewed Malinis about the burning issues of the day in the insurance business, including bancassurance or the cross-selling of insurance products through banks and the move to transfer the regulation of the pre-need industry to the Insurance Commission.*

MALINIS

**Q: The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has announced that it would soon come out with a circular allowing banks to engage in bancassurance or the cross-selling of insurance products, is this a wise move?**

**A:** Bancassurance started in developed countries such as the United States and Europe. They wanted to put up a one-stop shop where people dealing with banks on banking matters can also transact other lines such as insurance, which is also a financial asset. It was started for the convenience of the public.

Our feedback is that it's been succeeding in most countries in Europe and in America so we want to introduce it here.

**Q: The BSP initially planned to limit to banks that are subsidiaries of or owned by insurance companies the sale of insurance products, but has reportedly relaxed this stance following objections by major players in the insurance industry. What is the latest development on this?**

**A:** The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' original plan to allow only subsidiaries of banks to go into bancassurance was met by protests because that would effectively restrict the business to only a few companies operating here. In its second announcement, the BSP said it would consider banks to sell the products of their affiliate insurance firms. An affiliate, by the BSP's definition, means not necessarily 51 percent owned but maybe an ownership ranging from 5 to 15 percent. But the BSP is still trying to finalize the circular. At present, it is planning to exclude thrift banks, but this too may be relaxed later.

'Only banks with sound financial standing will be allowed to sell insurance.'

**Q: How will bancassurance impact on the industry? Will there be growth?**

A: Definitely it will mean growth (particularly in the insurance business) because there will be a very good distribution channel. Banks, especially the big ones with many branches, will be very effective outlets. What we (the insurance industry) need is a higher percentage of penetration. Conservatively, maybe there would be growth of between 5 and 10 percent in insurance sales. For the banks, it will mean additional earnings because they will get commissions for the products they sell.

**Q: Will the bank branch personnel be trained to sell insurance? Do you think this cross-selling arrangement has enough safeguards?**

**A:** Banks are highly regulated and so are the insurance companies. The Insurance Commission and the BSP will allow only companies that have complied with our requirements to operate. Only those with sound financial standing will be allowed to sell insurance.

We are also contemplating an arrangement where banks will assign a soliciting officer who will be responsible for their insurance products. Of course, that bank officer will have to undergo training. The officer should also follow the "know-your-customer" rule.

**Q: How many bank-insurance groups would qualify for bancassurance under the proposed BSP regulation?**

**A:** Three groups have already notified the commission of their intent to enter into bancassurance. These are Philippine AXA with Metrobank, United Coconut Planters Bank with Cocolife and Bank of the Philippine Islands with BPI/MS.

**Q: When you talk of insurance products to be sold by the banks, do you mean life insurance products?**

**A:** The BSP may allow both life and non-life insurance products.

**Q: How is the insurance industry today?**

**A:** In terms of life insurance, there has been growth in all aspects: net worth, assets, first-year premium and profitability.

The statistics for the non-life industry have yet to be completed but it seems it posted a 6-percent decline.

**Q: What's behind the difference between the performance of the life insurance and non-life insurance sectors?**

**A:** The life insurance companies have very efficient marketing forces.

They see to it that their marketing people are properly trained. Also, life insurance firms have already branched out. With the entry of foreign insurance companies, the marketing strategies became more innovative. We are benefiting from their marketing techniques and people now are becoming insurance conscious.

Our annual celebration of insurance consciousness week is really paying off.

The non-life companies seemed to have suffered because there are lesser risks to be insured. There is a slowdown in construction and business expansion. I will not say the economy is the reason but there are less risks to be insured now as a result of the New York tragedy.

**Q: Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista has urged the government, legislators and the public to start considering a single regulator, given that many of the functions of the BSP, SEC and IC overlap. What do you think of this proposal?**

**A:** That is possible. Maybe she's referring to the system where a single entity or agency regulates banks or anything financial. That is the situation in Commonwealth countries, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Canada where they have a single monetary authority. In America, however, they didn't buy that idea. There they have a bank governor and commissioner in every state.

**Q: Do you think it would be more efficient if the functions of the BSP, SEC and IC were consolidated into one agency?**

**A:** In one way, yes, because there will be a totality approach.

Right now the BSP is proposing joint examination with the IC of banks that are affiliates insurance companies or vice versa. But we said we couldn't be synchronized because the law says that we examine insurance companies on a yearly basis. We have a cut-off date, Dec. 31. The BSP has a mid-term examination. So they will be more current.

That's our comment to their proposal. A joint examination, however, would be leading to one single regulatory agency.

**Q: One of the hottest issues right now is the health of the pre-need industry and whether the regulation of the sector should be transferred to the IC or retained with the SEC. Some have said that the IC might not be ready, what do you say to this?**

**A:** Our comment is we're ready. Life insurance and other forms of insurance are more complicated than a simple pre-need plan. This office is established for that purpose, to regulate insurance and products allied and strongly linked to insurance. It's true we are short of manpower. If a transfer is decided, then we will propose that we be given the opportunity to hire more people and adjust salary scales.

It's a very funny situation we have now where we have the BSP's and SEC's salary rates almost the same while that of the IC is way below their standards yet we are performing similar functions. The BSP regulates banks; the SEC, stock companies, while the IC regulates insurance companies but IC is not given due consideration. The compensation of a commissioner is equivalent to a property custodian either of the SEC or the BSP. To strengthen IC further we would ask legislators that we be allowed to get more people and pay respectable salaries so it can attract more professional and competent people. We deal with very sensitive matters. We have an actuarial department but when our actuary, Pedro Jose, retired, we just got him as a consultant because we could not pay the salary of an actuary anymore. The IC is a training ground for actuaries. They come here and after a while, they leave because they get much higher salaries outside.

**Q: So the proposed pre-need bill is an opportunity for the IC to reorganize to be at par with the BSP and the SEC?**

**A:** Yes. And that is not so complicated to do. We have a funding source to pay for the reorganization. We have the premium tax. The share of our premium tax paid by the insurance companies has accumulated because we are deputized by the BIR to collect. We started it during the time of BIR Commissioner Beethoven Rualo and we have been effective because here we can efficiently assess insurance companies. We can easily see how many policies they have sold and how much premiums they have generated when they file their reports. The BIR cannot do that because it has to resort to inter-agency courtesy where it should ask IC for a report whenever it needed one.

That takes a long time. With our present arrangement, collection has become more efficient. Our share in the premium tax collection is one percent of 5 percent of the premium. In fact, we were able to improve our office, make some repairs, buy some equipment because we were finally allowed by the budget to use our share in the tax collection but only for capital outlay.

**Q: How big is the fund that you have?**

**A:** P800 million.

**Q: The SEC clamped down on pre-need companies with a lot of rules. It restricted these firms' investment mix and pursued other reforms. Is there anything you would adopt or change if the regulation of the pre-need industry will be transferred to the IC?**

**A:** There was a time when we were collaborating with the SEC on the pre-need sector. However, we noticed later on that the pre-need industry had been neglected and we were left alone to face the issues confronting the sector.

Even during the time of SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., there was an agreement that the IC was the agency with the actuarial expertise to regulate pre-need firms.

However, the SEC later on seemed to have learned what we were doing and decided to do it (regulating pre-need firms) on its own.

In earlier hearings, they admitted that pre-need firms had no cash value like insurance companies have. It was disclosed that they were making more money from the termination of the plans than the sale of the plans. That has been cured through an automatic refund.

There's another issue. Pre-need firms have trustee banks while, in insurance, there are none. If ever it will be transferred to us, the pre-need companies themselves will have to manage their own funds.

**Q: Why would you eliminate the trustees?**

**A:** We will just regulate them (pre-need insurance firms) similar to what we are doing with life companies, which have their own investment departments. We want them to manage their own funds so that we will have control over the management of the funds, otherwise we will have no control over how the trustee will invest the funds. We will have no jurisdiction.

Under the SEC, for every amount to be sold, one will have to get the SEC's prior approval and pay a corresponding fee. Under our regulation, one can issue as many plans or policies as long as its reserves are adequate.

**Q: Bautista had said that the SEC was planning to require pre-need companies to comply with risk-based capital standards. Is this something the IC would also be open to if tasked to regulate the pre-need sector?**

**A:** The move to a risk-based capital system is supported by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors and the Asian Development Bank.

We ourselves are doing it on a modified basis. We limit the writing capacity of a company based on capital. In simple words, if a company wants to issue more policies, then it should put on more weight. They are not allowed to issue more policies if their paid-up were too small.

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LIFESTYLE

*Editor* Chelo Banal-Formoso ◉ *Chief of Correspondents* Pam Pastor

# Proud 2b Pinoy

*part II*

Let the pride parade march on. In the face of the merciless bashing of the country in the international press, there are still enough reasons to be happy about being born Pinoy

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

## Reasons to be proud 2b Filipino

PART 2

**By Margot Aissa C. Tan**
*2bU! Correspondent*

✱ Things Hershey's and Nestle do not have—the wonderfully affordable and delectable Chocnut and Flat Tops

✱ Quality public secondary education at the Philippine Science High School (PSci), Quezon City Science High School (QSci) and Manila Science High School (MSci). According to Dr. William Padolina, former secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, the brainy PSci graduates are being recruited and offered scholarships by premier universities abroad like the Massachusetts Institute of Techonology (MIT). Let's just hope the scholars find their way home after a few years.

✱ Independent research, facts, and figures from the ever-vigilant and informative Ibon Foundation

✱ "*Sugat na pinaglamnan, gumagaling may balantukan.*" Age-old *salawikain* like this shows not only the versatility and beauty of our language, but also preserves our traditional value-systems.

✱ Filipino surnames. Despite 400 years in the Philippines, the Spaniards were not able to erase completely indigenous tradition and practices, including the way many Filipinos named themselves. To this day, names like Agbayani (which means "to be heroic"), Angara (beautiful), Balingit (to shake), Buhain (resurrect, to turn on), *Cayabyab* (fellow grain pounder), and Dalisay (pure), among others, continue to proudly proclaim a colorful past.

✱ The Philippines, Bali and Hawaii may share the distinction of being the world's major sources of *puka* shells, but the Philippine variety is reputedly the finest in terms of whiteness and luster. The Philippine shells

REASONS/ p.D3

EXPRESS ADVICE

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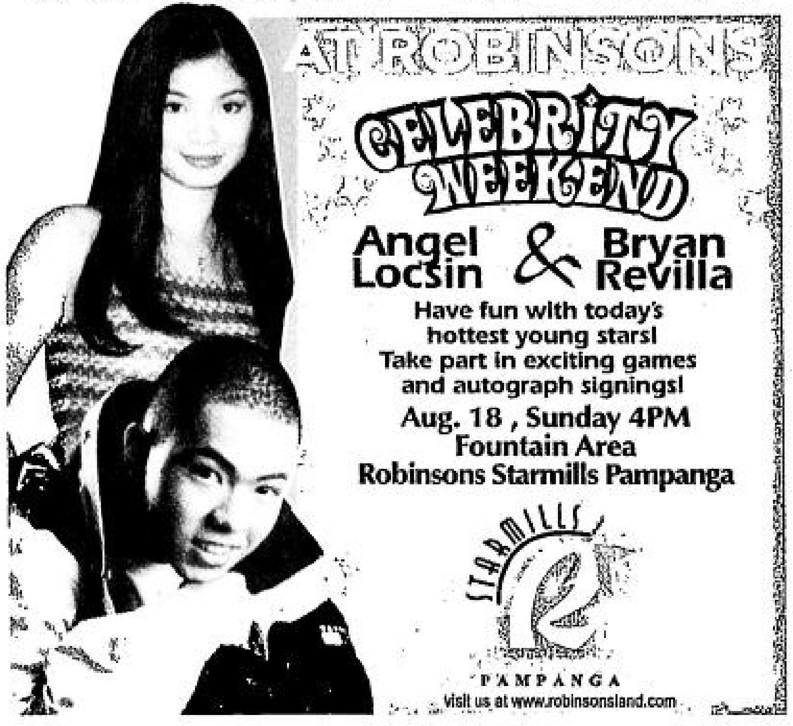

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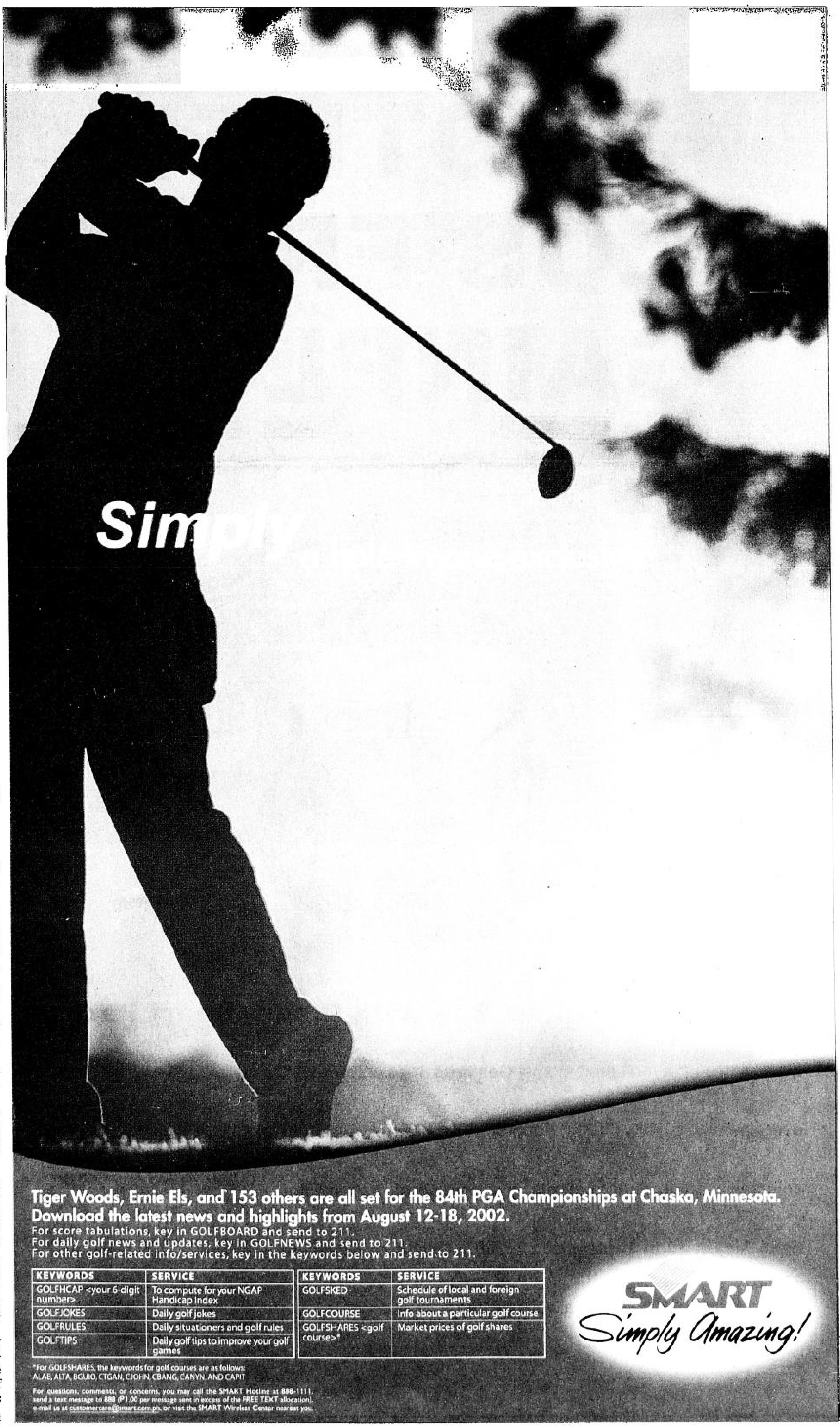

Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, and 153 others are all set for the 84th PGA Championships at Chaska, Minnesota.
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| GOLFJOKES | Daily golf jokes |
| GOLFRULES | Daily situationers and golf rules |
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| KEYWORDS | SERVICE |
|---|---|
| GOLFSKED | Schedule of local and foreign golf tournaments |
| GOLFCOURSE | Info about a particular golf course |
| GOLFSHARES <golf course>* | Market prices of golf shares |

*For GOLFSHARES, the keywords for golf courses are as follows:
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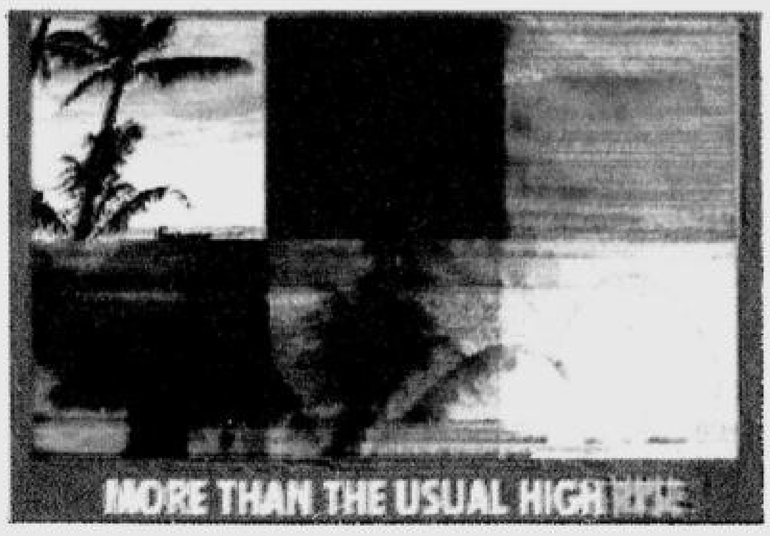

MORE THAN THE USUAL HIGH-RISE

Finally, the Pl
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public

# More than the usual ad about the Philippines

**By Anne Rose A. Elicaño**
*2bU! Correspondent*

MEDIOCRE advertisements. We've mastered the fine art of channel surfing—flipping through channels during the commercial break, and flipping back in time without missing a scene. Unless you're a marketing or a communications student on duty, you wouldn't want to sit through five agonizing minutes of bland ads that were created by people who seemed to have forgotten what ads are made for in the first place: to grab attention. Nope, we TV junkies are not impressed by that standard fare of "ooh-my-hair-is-sooo-shiny" shampoo commercials and other ads with campy song-and-dance numbers.

### Something different

But if you've been watching CNN or BBC recently, you might have spotted an ad that made you pause just a few milliseconds before you were about to punch the change button in the remote control (check out www.wowphilippines.com.ph). Coconut trees, beaches, tropical fish, rice terraces and fiestas flash in a rich flood of colors. Before you finally realize what the ad is all about, a feeling not unlike déjà vu holds you in it's grip. You think, "Why do all these look so oddly familiar?" On each scene flash messages that proudly proclaim in succession: "More than the usual high-rise. More than the usual rush hour. More than the usual sidewalks. More than the usual smiles. The Philippines…more than the usual." "Wow" may very well be the word that defines it all. At long last, something positive about the Philippines is being showcased to audiences all over the world. And here's something to be proud of: this refreshingly well-conceptualized and executed ad (you bet it grabs the attention!) is stamped "made in the Philippines."

### Behind the scenes

The "More than the usual" ad was created by the Manila-based ad agency BBDO/GO for the Department of Tourism last March. The Abu Sayyaf were still on a rampage at that time, and this did little to improve the Philippines' image worldwide. To say that tourism was doing badly was an understatement. There was a real need to earn back the trust of the people who might want to visit our country's lovely shores, and part of the solution came in the form of marketing "brand Philippines."

The BBDO/GO team, made up of David Guerrero, David Ferrer, Jeng Floresca and Joey Agbayani, worked directly under Gordon. Given the deadlines and the tight timing in the production, some footage was borrowed from PLDT and Smart commercials. Two versions of the ad were made, one for Europe and another for Asia. It was targeted at millions of viewers worldwide. More than the usual, indeed.

What was in that ad that would make people take notice and want to visit the Philippines? "We kept putting ourselves in the position of cold, wet, gray city dwellers in the cities of those continents," said Guerrero. "After a while we just thought, 'What if we took things that are everyday to them like fast-food or high-rises and show how much nicer life would be if they were in the Philippines?'" True enough, the "More than the usual" ad featured things about our country that one wouldn't come across anywhere in Europe—the sunny weather, beautiful beaches, and warm Pinoy hospitality are just a few things to begin with.

"The idea of 'more than the usual' seemed to fit our culture: everything here is more than you'd expect," Guerrero said.

### Reactions

The "More than the usual" ad has been garnering raves from the Pinoy communities abroad, and the Europeans seem to be liking it, too. In a discussion thread in www.wowphilippines.com.ph, one guy said, "That was 5:30 a.m. in Ireland time when I was feeding one of my geriatric patients and I heard some home-like music. Oh my God! That was fantastic! The Philippines' tourism [ad] is on the box! I love it!" Others have been watching CNN and BBC more often in hopes of catching the ad. There have been comments that the ad runs too short compared to the tourism ads of other Asian countries. Yes, a good thing deserves to run longer, but that may just be our long-stifled national pride speaking. The most important thing is that tourism is getting the boost it so badly needs. Tourism arrivals are up 10 percent year-on-year. To quote Guerrero, "Whether it's a result of the ad or not, that's something we can all be happy about."

This commercial has made hearts beat a little faster. When was the last time an ad had this effect on Filipinos? It might be a good idea for the government to air this ad on the local channels. It's a good reminder that there is still a lot to be proud about in our country.

*E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com*

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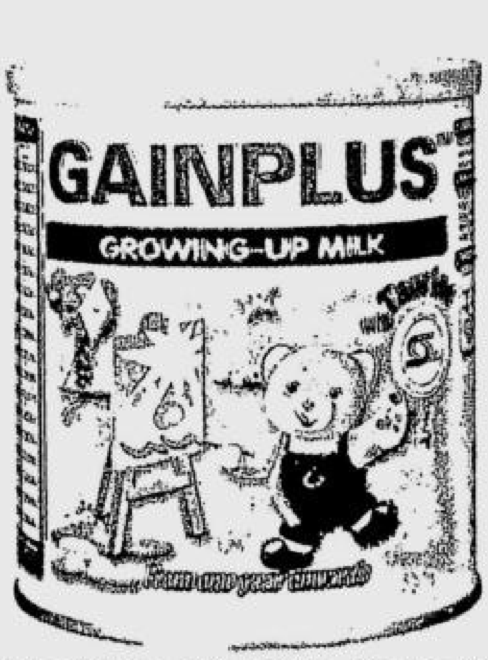

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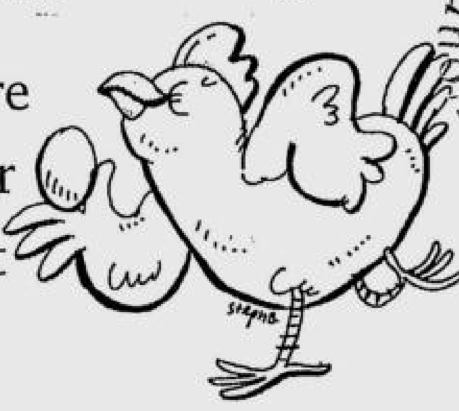
Our pre-Hispanic ancestors were neither uncouth barbarians nor imbeciles who did nothing but scratch their privates



# Reasons to be proud 2b Filipino

From page D1

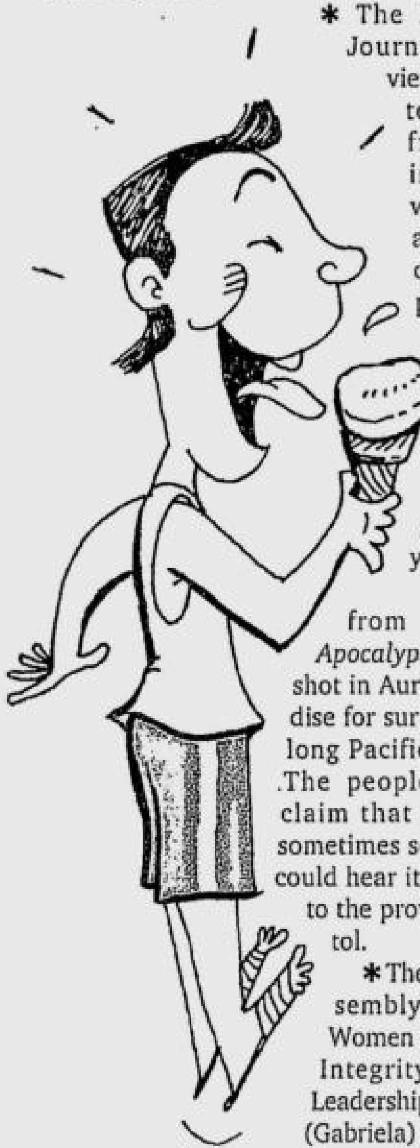
come mainly from Boracay, of course.

* Our queer fondness for dirty ice cream as *palaman* for *pan de sal*

* Literacy in pre-colonial Philippines. Contrary to popular belief, our pre-Hispanic ancestors were neither uncouth barbarians nor imbeciles who did nothing but scratch their privates. When Miguel Lopez de Legazpi first came to Manila, he found that most Filipinos already knew how to read and write and they had their own literature, which was written on materials like leaves, wood or even fragile rice paper.

* If you feel *sosyal* and decide to go on a shopping spree in the United States, you will find mounds of products in Bloomingdale's and signature stores like Tommy Hilfiger and Polo Ralph Lauren marked "Made in the Philippines."

* The Philippines was the first Asian country to proclaim its independence and to establish a republic.



* The Philippine Journalism Review (PJR) attests to the freewheeling, keenly watchful and analytical Philippine press. Reading the PJR, as my professor would say, "is good for you."

* A scene from the movie *Apocalypse Now* was shot in Aurora, a paradise for surfers with its long Pacific coastline. The people of Baler claim that the surf is sometimes so huge they could hear it all the way to the provincial capitol.

* The General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action (Gabriela) is a national alliance of women's organizations fighting for the democratic rights and welfare of women. Its services and actions have all been geared toward upholding the rights and welfare of the poor and the oppressed.

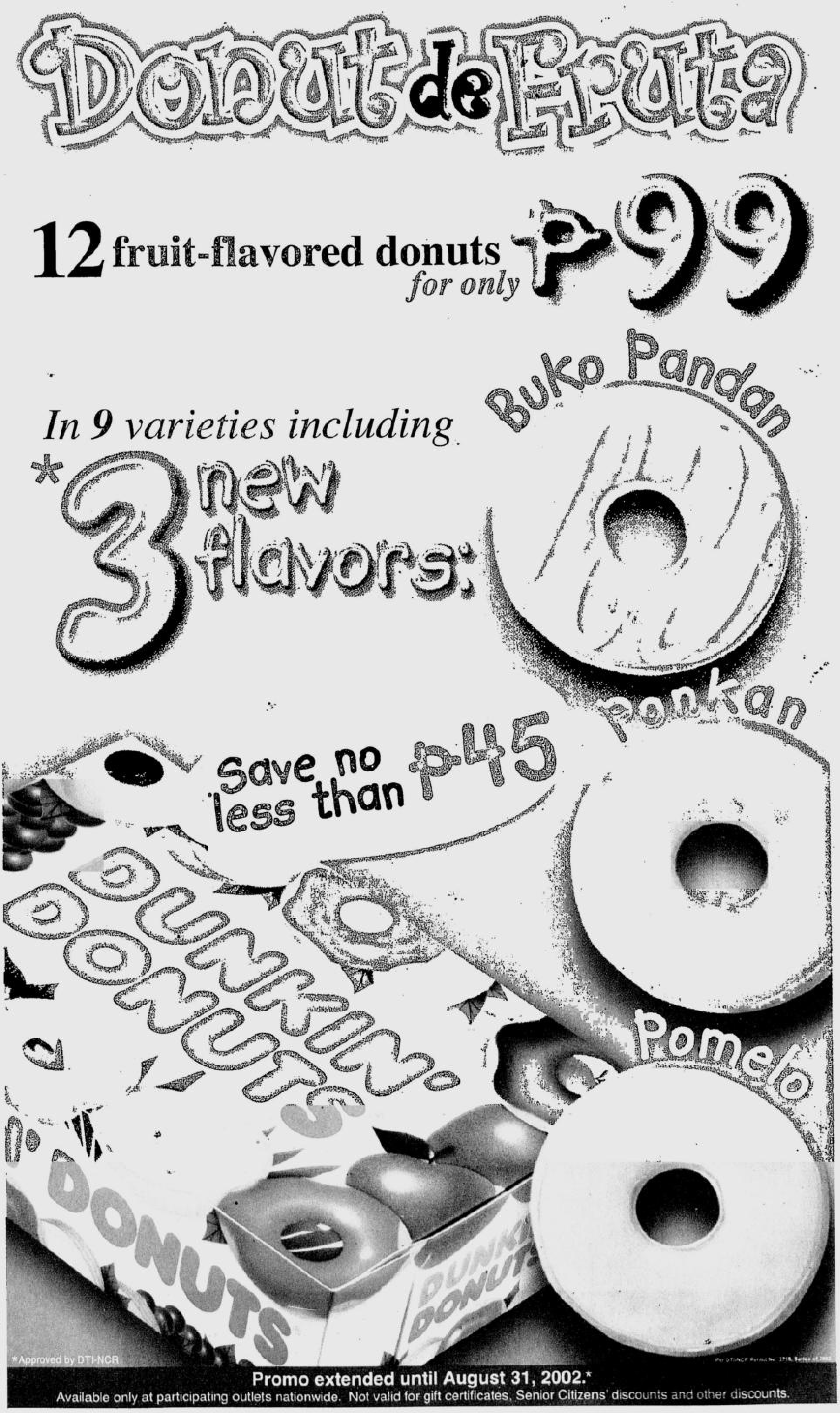
* The award-sweeping www.philmusic.com

* The heavenly *bibingka* with *itlog na maalat* and the *puto bumbong*

* Philippine cinema. Seiko and Regal Films aside, we have a lot of good films that truly merit praise and recognition. How can you ignore Lino Brocka's "*Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim*" and "*Orapronobis?*" We have other distinguished directors like Eddie Romero, Ishmael Bernal, Peque Gallaga, Luis Nepomuceno, Mike de Leon and Marilou Diaz Abaya.

* Quirky traditional practices like the offering of eggs to Santa Clara to ensure a clear and sunny day

* Parish priest Fr. Ben Beltran, who helped transform scavengers in the infamous Smokey Mountain into a dignified and productive Christian community



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# Filipino inventors as prolific as artists

## Pinoy inventions rarely get the credit they deserve

**By Armin Adina**
*PDI Research Department*

**LIKE the arts, science and technology are also favorite fields of study of Filipinos. But Filipino scientists and inventors have not been given the credit and accolades they truly deserve.**

Parker pens, for instance, may not have worked as well as it does and become widely popular without the contribution of Filipino chemist Francisco Quisumbing. He invented the Quink ink and sold it to Parker. Quisumbing's ink cleans the pen as it writes. It dries quickly on paper but stays liquid inside the tube.

Agapito Flores' role with regard to the development of the fluorescent lamp was the subject of a lot of debates. Although many believe the lamp got its name from Flores' last name, others say it was Nikola Tesla who should get the credit for the invention. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) clarifies the issue. Tesla invented fluorescent lighting after Thomas Edison discovered the electric bulb. Flores, an electrician, is credited for developing the modern fluorescent lamp distributed for commercial use, according to DOST. But, it added, that the story was denied by General Electric.

In television quiz shows, an often-asked question is the name of the Filipino doctor who helped develop the antibiotic Erythromycin. It was Abelardo Aguilar, who called the medicine "Ilosone" after Iloilo, where it was developed. Taxol, a drug used to treat cancer, was invented by Filipinos using Philippine yew. But it was patented by Americans.

Both the banana catsup and the pineapple vinegar are Filipino innovations. We should thank Maria Ylagan Orosa for these flavor enhancers.

While many Filipino inventions have hardly been rightfully acknowledged, several local inventors did receive international recognition through the years. Gonzalo Catan Jr. has been cited for inventing the Household Insecticide (HI), a water-based insect killer, while Rolando dela Cruz brought home a gold medal for inventing the cashew nut-based medication for skin problems like warts and moles.

Businessman Roberto del Rosario, inventor of the sing-along system (SAS), won in a P2-million infringement case he filed in 1999 against Juanito Corp. for claiming to have invented the system, which it called the Miyata Karaoke. The word "karaoke" is Japanese for "singing without accompaniment." In its decision, the court said Juanito Corp. was manufacturing a system identical or substantially similar to del Rosario's invention. It found the Chinese-owned appliance firm in San Juan guilty of infringement of del Rosario's patent.

Juanito has appealed the case with the Court of Appeals, arguing that the system was a Japanese innovation. It cited a Time Magazine article identifying the Japanese as the developer of the karaoke system. The appeal is still pending.

Del Rosario, chair of the Trebel Group of Companies, invented his SAS to aid students in his singing school. He said he also considered the Filipinos' love for singing when he developed the SAS. He came up with the first prototype in 1975 and called it the "one-man combo." An improved system was released in the market in 1978. It was covered by two Letters of Patents Numbers.

A group of Japanese visited del Rosario in 1977, before the release of the improved system, and tested the prototype. The visit was followed by the release of the Japanese karaoke.

To avoid situations like these and protect their brainchild, local inventors have organized themselves to better address the problems they are facing. Hopefully with this move, there would be fewer cases of Filipinos being robbed of the products of their brain and hard work.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

## *UP Psych. Dept. conducts training program*

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Department of Psychology is offering again the Human Potential Development (HPD) Facilitators' Training Program starting November.

The international-standard training integrates elements from Gestalt psychology, existentialism, group dynamics and psychodrama.

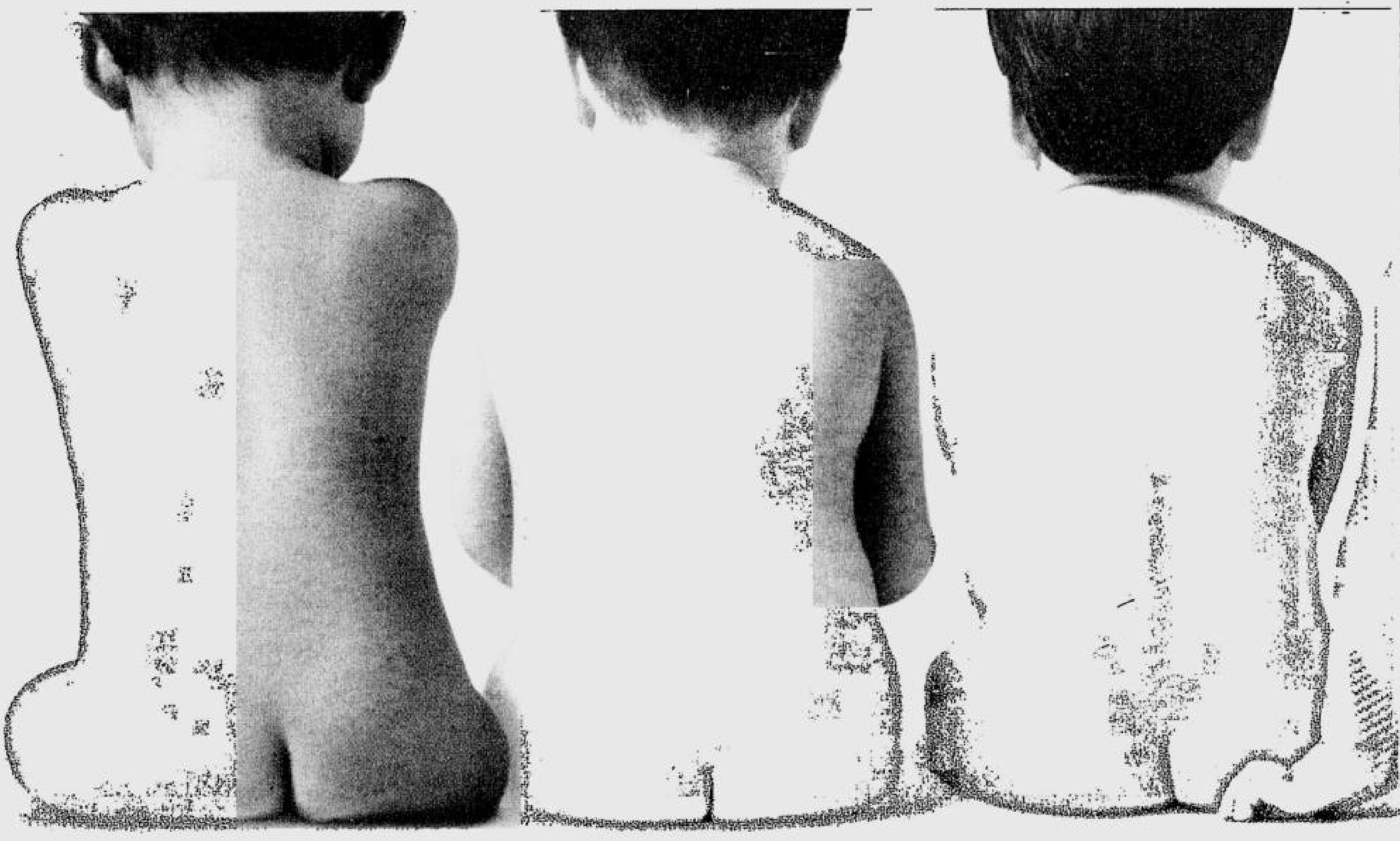
The program is open to all professionals in the fields of teaching, training, counseling and therapy. Alumni and graduates of psychology, medicine, health-related and other social sciences are invited to join. Non-UP alumni and non-psychology graduates, as well as other practitioners, are also welcome.

Interested individuals are requested to submit a copy of their curriculum vitae and three 1 x 1" pictures during office hours, starting Sept. 1, at the Department of Psychology, G/F Palma Hall Annex (tel. 928-2728 or 920-5301 local 6433). Interviews will be held 2-6 p.m., weekdays, Oct. 1-31, at the HPD office, 3/F Palma Hall Annex (Phan). Call the HPD office at 920-5386, or e-mail hpd@pworld.net.ph. E-mail can also be sent to Dr. Marylou Onglatco at mlonglatco@kssp.upd.edu.ph.

## Discounts and raffle at 3-day sale

THE TEN Robinsons shopping malls in the country will hold a big three-day sale Aug. 16-18. Participating outlets promise huge discounts.

Customers will get a chance to bring home brand new Condura air-conditioning units and Ponds and Dove gift packs from Unilever. A P300-purchase on a single receipt entitles a shopper to a raffle coupon. Union Bank Visa cardholders double their chances of winning by using their credit cards during the Robinsons Malls three-day sale.



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# Survey: What's the best OPM album you've bought?

**By Maui V. Reyes**
*2bU! Correspondent*

REMEMBER those long summer days when blasting the Eraserheads' "Overdrive" was all it took to make you smile, or hearing the Sugar Hiccup song on the radio had you singing along (even though you could never ever reach those high notes)? It's a known fact that Filipinos can't get enough of music. Even your *yaya* can be heard every now and then belting out the latest Regine Velasquez hit (yes, you are not the only person in your house who can't reach those high notes).

Despite MTV and numerous Top 40 stations that give the top spots on their charts to foreign acts, we can't ignore the great OPM albums that have made their way into our music collections. We are, after all, a talented lot. Besides, we doubt the likes of Linkin Park can better capture the theme of friendship than the Eraserheads' "*Minsan.*" So 2bU! asked readers which Filipino albums they treasure most:

Yano's first album. *Umikot ang mundo ko nung narinig ko siya* for the first time. Everything about the album is a killer.—**Vin Dancel, Twisted Halo**

Rivermaya's second album, "Trip." I liked all the songs in that album. It sucked *nga lang* when Bamboo left the band. I liked his voice better than Rico's.—**Miko Alzona, 20**

Rivermaya's album, "Free." The songs are catchy and had different flavors while at the same time, true and powerful. You can easily identify with them. "Stranded" is my favorite. —**Axl Rose, 22**

Backdraft inspired me and my friends. It was an Atenean band, so that was another factor!—**Mong Alcaraz, 20, Chicosci**

P.O.T. *Astig!*—**Nico Af**

My favorite OPM albums are "Rippingyarns" by Cynthia Alexander, "Circus" by the Eraserheads, "Probably Not, But Most Definitely" by Imago, Twisted Halo's EP, itchyworms!'s "Little Monsters under Your Bed," and Boldstar's debut.—**Aldwin Aspillera**

The Eraserheads' "Circus" and Barbie's Cradle's "Music from the Buffet Table." It's a tie. *Astiiig!*—**Sam Aguilar, 19**

Eraserheads' "Circus." I listened to it endlessly when I was a kid. *Nawawala na nga ang* cassette *ko eh…*—**Jonathan Sibulo, 22**

"*Himig ng Dekada '90,*" *halo-halo! Kasi masaya!*—**Trici Nicolas, 20**

Would I be biased if I said Twisted Halo's EP? *Sulit na sulit—lahat ng kanta maganda.* Call me sick, but I love the "Iskul Bukol" album of Tito, Vic and Joey. *Puro* spoofs *ng* Pinoy hits and really funny delivery."—**Kris Gorra-Dancel, Eraserheads**

"7 Corners of Your Game" by Greyhoundz. The songs just stick to me.—**Robbie Reyes, 21** (who's turning 22 tomorrow)

"Ultraelectromagneticpop" by the Eraserheads. *Nabuksan ang mata ng tao. Nabuksan ang pinto para sa musikero.*—**Ebe Dancel, Sugarfree**

I'm assuming of all time, yes? "Circus" by the Eraserheads, "Yano" by Yano, and The Dawn's "I Stand With You." I don't classify music as local or not. Just good or bad. And these are excellent releases. The albums made me want to be a musician myself.—**Diego Castillo, Sandwich**

Cynthia Alexander's "Insomnia," because I like her music and the song "Comfort in Your Strangeness" is one of my favorite songs.—**Acel, Moonstar88**

Freestyle's first album.—**Apple Aquino**

Parokya ni Edgar's first album, "Circus" and "Ultraelectromagneticpop" by the Eraser-heads. *Kasi astiiig.*—**Pam Pastor, 21**

Porkchop Duo's Christmas album. *Kasi sobrang nakakatuwang pakinggan. Ang galing pa nilang kumanta. Walang* track *na hindi benta sa akin!*—**Jorel Corpus, 21, Happy Meals**

Yano. *Kasi na*-document *yung* Philippine society at that time, and most of the songs are timeless.—**Mark Escueta**

Parokya ni Edgar's "Buruguduystunstuguduystuy." Because it's hard to spell.—**Yanny, 24**

Backdraft's debut album. *Lupit eh.*—**Pancho "The Responsible Winner" Araneta**

"Insomnia and Other Lullabies" by Cynthia Alexander. Genius songwriting teamed with killer musicianship! It's just a simple, honest album with lots of soul and depth.—**Kakoi Legaspi, Rivermaya**

*E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com*

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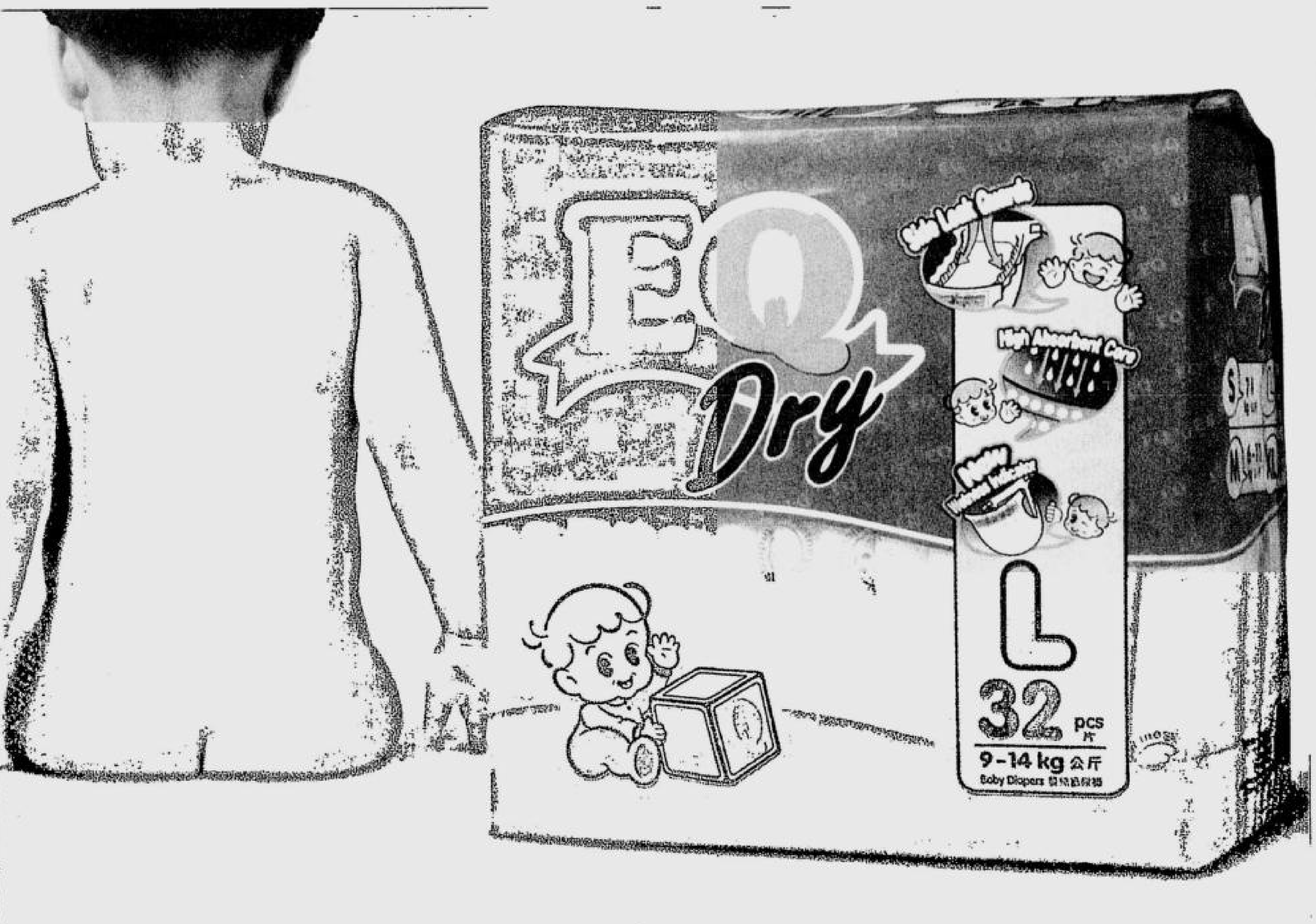

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**MODE + L hosts Verns Buckley and DJ Jon Herrera**

**SISTER ACT. Marga and Cristina Villanueva at the Polo Club**

**HERE'S THE G. Donita Rose and Buda Concio of Globe**

**METRO STAR. Party girl Mylene Dizon and Anonymous boy Jan La'O**

**PICTURE ME. JM Rodriguez and Gentxt's Em Lingao**

**G-SPOTTED. Steve Franklin and Clara Balaguer**

# Clash of the Titans

LAST weekend, the dance circuit got a double-whammy. It was all-out war—Globe's Gentxt vs Smart, and NBK vs Big Fish. It was a war of marketing budgets, e-mails, print ads and fliers. I guess everyone in young Manila was present in at least one of the parties. The question in everyone's mind was, "So which party are you going to?"

*Tim Yap*

At right is a "comparative study." Since "partying" (double-meaning these days—we all know that) is a strictly "personal" affair, let the people who attended—you—be the judge, that is, if you have recovered from the weekend hangover.

| EVEN | CLUB RENAISSANCE | GOD'S KITCHEN |
|---|---|---|
| **Producers:** | NBK | Big Fish |
| **Brought to you by:** | Globe's Gentxt | Smart, MTV and Bench |
| **Venue:** | Manila Polo Club main lounge | NBC Tent |
| **The look:** | Brights and neon<br>High-school prom | Dark and sinister<br>High-tech club |
| **Opening act:** | Manolet Dario | Tuck Cheah |
| **Main deck:** | Anthony Pappa | Darren Pearce |
| **DJ entourage:** | Pappa's papa Joe came all the way from Melbourne to watch his son perform. | Paul Hugo, the God's Kitchen road manager |
| **Dancers:** | Ed Aniel, Miko Valenzuela, and whoever had the guts to go on the ledge. | JR Isaac and Jay Santos, TFL Angels—scantily clad body-painted men and women and whoever had the guts to go on the ledge —myself included |
| **Crowd:** | Hip scenesters, industry insiders, friends of NBK, Globe subscribers and die-hard fans of Anthony Pappa | Students and celebrities, Big Fish followers, Smart subscribers and very, very young people |
| **Celebs spotted:** | See this page | See this page |
| **Music:** | Deep, dark and sexy progressive house; everyone was still dancing even when Pappa stopped playing | Fluff with attitude; a crowd pleaser, Pearce even interspersed Kylie with his tracks; break beat to progressive, to hard trance to techno |
| **What made it unique:** | the venue, a buffet table on the side, with gambas, calamares and other finger foods—and people actually ate! Proof that a lot were sober, unless they were food tripping. | The elevated VIP section, whose checkered flooring resembled a race track—the need for speed, indeed. |
| **What time it ended:** | 4 a.m. | 5 a.m. |
| **After party:** | Pravda till sunrise and beyond | Pravda, private homes till Sunday sunrise to sunset |
| **What they had in common:** | Renaissance had images of Jesus on its screens, which freaked some people out. | The word "God" in God's Kitchen—you know that indeed, "God" is watching us, "from a distance." |
| | BOTH PARTIES HAD ANTI-DRUGS STATEMENTS | |
| **THE WINNER:** | US! | US! |

**PAPPA PREACH. Anthony with dad Joe Pappa and NBK's Robert Dario**

**AMAZING CREW. DJ Tuck Cheah, Darren Pearce and Domini Primero of Big Fish**

**LUCKY US. Chimara's JP Tanchangco and Lucky Manzano**

**BENCH MARK. Tina Tinio of Shu Uemura and Ben Chan**

**PARTY PALS. Paolo Prieto and Raj Moreno at the VIP lounge**

**SPARKLING SET. Carmina Sanchez and Trish Briones**

**BIG BENCH. John Hall at the NBC Tent**

**PRAVDA PAIR. Janelle So and Paolo Trillo**

**WHERELSE BUT AT THE CENTER. Marcel Crespo with Edith and Vanessa**

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

**LONDON BRIDGE. Victoria London and Joel Tantoco**

**D IN G. Dara David and Quad dela Paz at the Gentxt gig**

**BIANCA Zobel is back in town**

**PICTURE PERFECT. Valerie delos Santos and Ronnie Salvacion**

**TOGETHER AGAIN? Roy Ofek and Vina Morales**

**FOUR PLAY. Ria Romero, Marnie Arcilla, Pepper Teehankee and Julian Ruaux**

**ZOOLANDERS. Rich Lozano and Colin Whitfield**

**SARI-SARI SEXY. GP Reyes and Mega's Minelli Bautista**

### This week's scene

TODAY, go over your parents' closets, dig out their vintage stuff and head over to the Fila boutique in Megamall as **Butch** and **Cris Albert** host a champagne and caviar cocktail at 6 p.m. to launch Ferrari's vintage line. Chic, chic, chic.

Tomorrow, the Singapore Tourism Board hosts the premiere launch of the MTV Coffee Table Book at Dish in Rockwell with your favorite veejays from 6 p.m. onwards. If you're craving for mouth-watering pizzas (all 27 varieties), head to California Pizza Kitchen's grand opening on Tomas Morato Ave., which formally opens at 7:30 p.m. If you just feel like sitting back and getting a laugh, head to the Monsoon bar of the Linden Suites on San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas, at 9 p.m. It's "Improv Night!" with top stage actors like **Joel Trinidad** and company doing thespic calisthenics.

Friday, Dockers unveils its Fall-Holiday collection via "Style @ Work" at the South Court of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. At night, it's "Plush" dance music at Pravda with **Edge Pamute**; and Saturday, it's "Satur-dish" with its Stars night.

So many things to do, so little time. Enjoy your week, partyphiles.

# Maintaining manageable and shiny-looking hair

911

*Kinny Salas*

TECHNOLOGY and competition are great. When I was a child, conditioner or crème rinse (as it was once called) was a high-tech thing. Then came hair gel, mousse and other hair treatment products. Well, let me take you back to the basics. Lately, I have been road-testing shampoos from the groceries. Wow, there seems to be an answer to every hair problem I've gone through. When people ask me "Have you rebonded your hair?," chances are, I used Pantene for smooth and silky hair that makes my hair super-straight but shiny-looking. "Have you had a perm or went to the parlor for a blow-dry and set?" Revlon Voluminous or Sunsilk Crystal makes my hair bouncy and manageable. For unmanageable, dull hair with no luster, I use Neutrogena anti-residue to avoid hair product buildup. Hair becomes easy to style and is most cooperative. Warning: Do not use for more than 14 days straight or your hair will become dry. I have an oily scalp but dry hair due to coloring—and I have found two shampoos that serve both problems—Palmolive Tea Tree shampoo and Vaseline Amino Collagen shampoo. These two keep the scalp smelling clean while richly conditioning dry hair. I even tested it during my outdoor workouts where I get really sweaty, but my scalp didn't smell like stale grease at all.

Of course, I used the matching conditioner for every shampoo except those that have built-in ones like Vaseline and Palmolive. Note: My hair type is fine, limp and has a tendency to fly away. If you have coarser and dryer hair, use formulas meant for you or a richer texture. Example, I use Agree for normal and it gives me the rebonded look. You may want to try the one for dry or damaged hair.

**Face moisturizer.** I am so aware of my age! Four years ago, my peers plied me with a lot of acne questions. Recently, the same pair of people have been asking me what a good moisturizer is because they have started seeing more pronounced lines on their forehead, laugh lines and crow's feet.

What is the difference between a day cream and night cream? Well, the only difference between a day cream and night cream is the SPF for day. To make crow's feet less pronounced, try Neutrogena intensified eye cream, Shiseido Benefiance eye cream, Retinoic acid or AHA which plump up those lined eyes. Now, for the best moisturizer, ask yourself what you want your moisturizer to do for you. My friends all said to combat aging as long as they could. The latest craze in moisturizers in the US today is to give back to our skin the natural contents we had as babies, which depleted over the years, causing us to lose firmness. Moisturizers I now look for are those which contain "magic" ingredients that firm up our skin.

Coenzyme Q10 is naturally found in our skin as babies, which depleted as we got older. It is very good for sensitive skin, which cannot abide peeling. CoQ10 will not cause stinging and irritations. Brand to try: Nivea Q10 has everything: eye cream, face cream, sun block and even body lotion.

Active Copper increases collagen production which firms up skin, shrinks pores and makes eyebags and laugh lines unnoticeable. Like CoQ10, we were born with lots of this, which depleted over time. They even have foundation with SPF15 and higher. Try ROC by J&J and Neutrogena Fine Fairness Essence cream.

Unlike the first two, we were not born with Kinetin. This stable antioxidant is found on a plant growth factor which slows down the aging process. It protects our body by blocking oxidation. Moisture balance is then maintained and assists in the skin-renewal process. Try Almay Kinetin skin care line.

Note that the four ingredients I mentioned are suitable for sensitive skin and will heal without irritation. Most of these products for the moment are only found in the US and Australia, but as we carry most of the brands, they will be here soon.

# The Pinoy for dummies

**By Michelle C. Pino**
*2bU! Correspondent*

## REVIEW

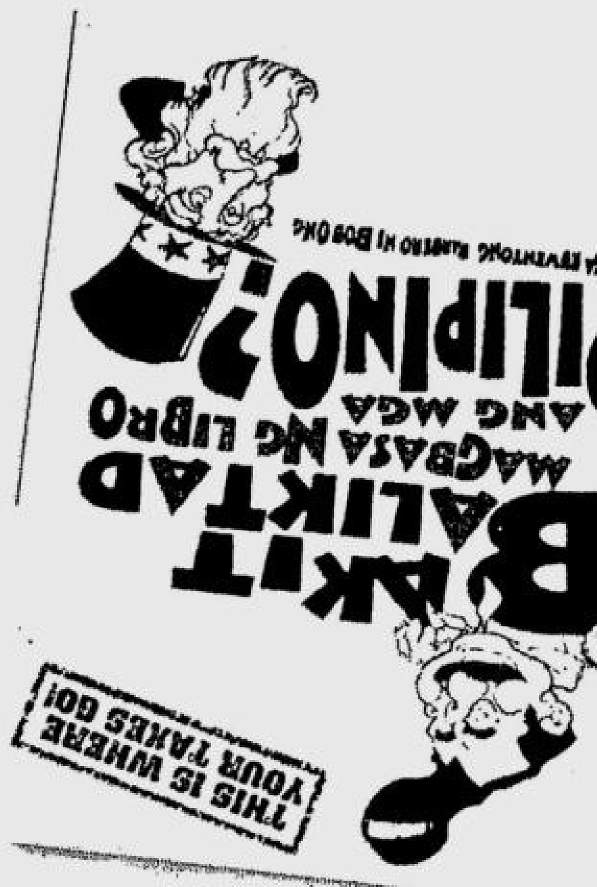
A SEQUEL is needed because a good thing should have a follow-through. So Bob Ong is back with his sequel to "ABNKKBSNPLAko?! (Aba, Nakakabasa na Pala Ako)." "Bakit Baliktad Magbasa ng Libro ang mga Pilipino?" is a collection of Ong's *kuwentong barbero* from the "Bobong Pinoy" website. It is a haunting book that every Filipino should read. It takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of emotions, leaving him annoyed and exasperated, but also determined to make things a little better than they are now.

Carrying this book around for people to see is one thing, but reading it in public is another story. Unless you want to be seen by people reading a book upside-down, I suggest you read it in your own room. But then you will have to explain to your mom why you are laughing so hard.

Nearly everything that is humorous about Filipinos and the Philippines is portrayed in the book. It tests your "Jologs Quotient," or your knowledge of Filipino scientific terms. What is the accurate Tagalog term for electricity, aside from the Spanish-based *elektrisidad*? It's *dagitab*. My ignorance makes me feel ashamed.

After reading half of the book, one should not take Bob Ong's silly yaks too seriously. After all, he himself calls them *kuwentong barbero*. They are small shoddy talks and gossips from several overheard pseudo-intellectual conversations here and there, and from the discussions in his "Bobong Pinoy" website.

However, the concluding part of the book is no longer funny. It recounts the sometimes embarrassing behaviors of Filipinos here and abroad. I got hurt, offended and undeniably upset. And though it is embarrassing to admit that I did cry a little, well I did. Was it shame? Was it pity for my fellow Pinoys? I cannot clearly point out why, but all I know is that what the last, yet best part of the book has to say is no longer funny.


MGA KUWENTONG BARBERO NI BOB ONG
BAKIT BALIKTAD MAGBASA NG LIBRO ANG MGA PILIPINO?
THIS IS WHERE YOUR TAXES GO!

It's no longer amusing how strangers and foreigners describe our people and our country. It's no longer amusing when a lot of educated, more privileged Pinoys describe the future of our country as discouraging, bleak and doomed to failure. It's no longer amusing how we, Filipinos, describe our people and our country. It's no longer funny!

### Rating: Pinoy must-read

Cowards believe that some things should be left unsaid. But I believe every Filipino should read what Bob Ong and what most "Bobong Pinoys" have to say in this book. They are truths most of us won't even dare to whisper to fellow Filipinos without risking a heated banter. It's not enough that we know and wake up to those shameful realities. We might as well take the challenge Bob Ong left for us at the end of the book.

So what is his answer to his very own question, *bakit baliktad magbasa ng libro ang mga Pilipino*? Is it because *bobo ang* Pinoy? Bob Ong never did actually answer this question, but he never implied that it's because we're idiots.

It's because majority of Pinoys haven't read him yet.

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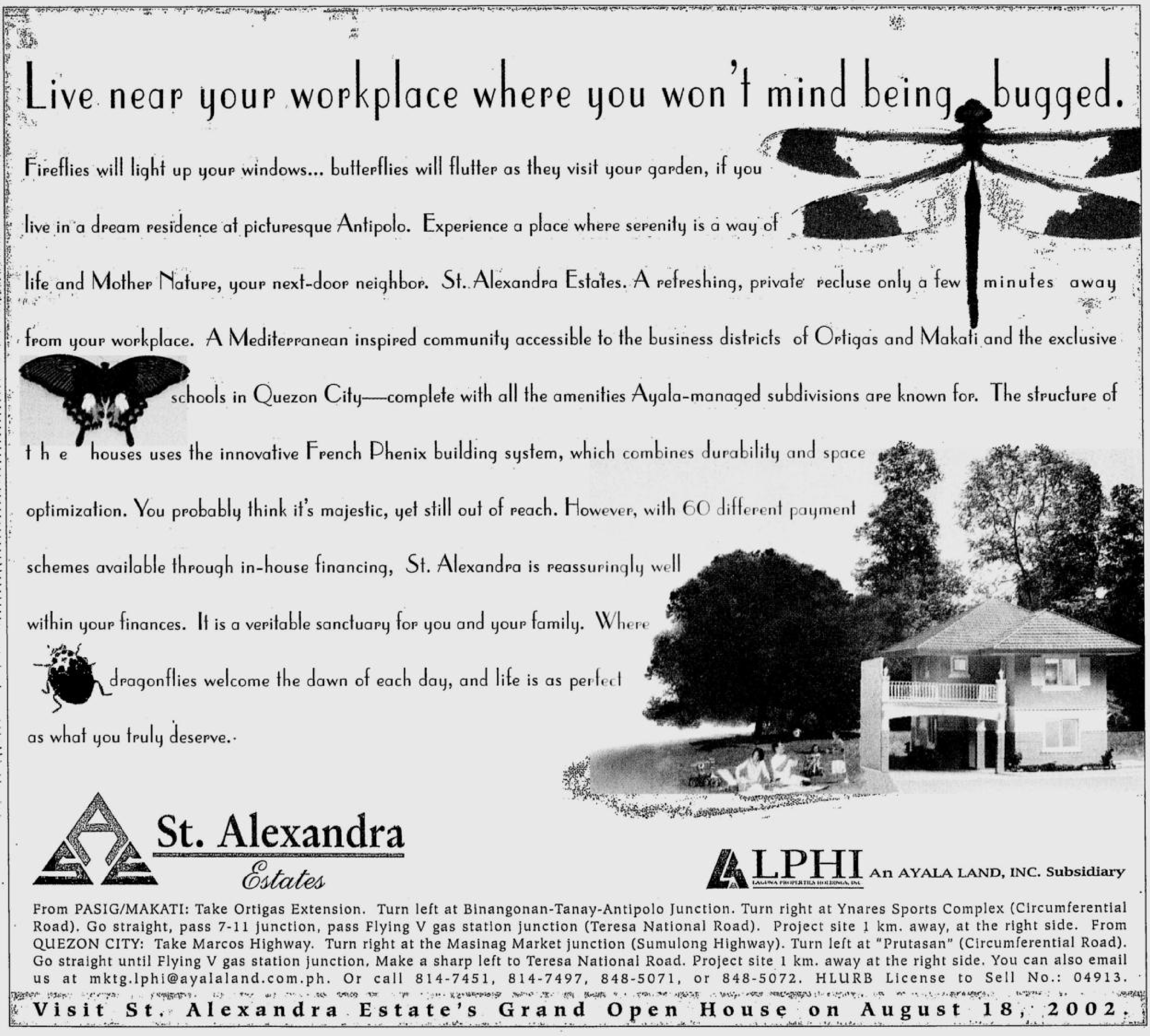
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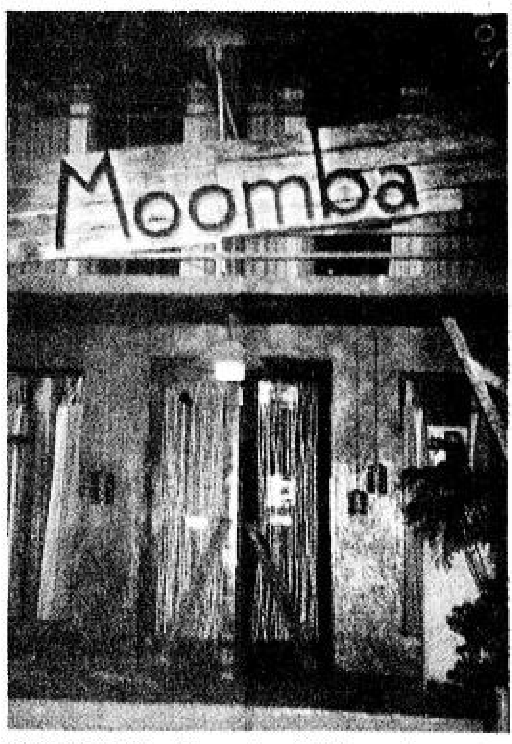


WELCOME to the gate of this party spot.

STEP up, step down.

# Moomba is a red-hot **spot** for *chilling*

**By Jayvi Aruta**
*2bU! Correspondent*

GOING out is never more fun than when done with your best friends. Almost every time, the hardest part is agreeing where to go. Where to go for dinner? Or drinks? Or a bit of dancing? How about just fun chatting? There's a one-stop solution for all the Saturday night enjoyment you can handle.

Not too far off the beaten path of T. Morato in QC (at the corner of Mother Ignacia and Roces to be exact) sits a restaurant called Moomba. "The name is an Australian aboriginal word which means 'Let's get together and have fun,'" explains marketing and operations manager Jane Coleen Kho. From the looks of it, they've gone the extra mile to make sure everyone at Moomba does both.

### Something for everyone

Saturday night is Moomba's party night. A DJ pumps up the volume and turns down the lights at 10 p.m. Unlike other places, it doesn't try too hard to morph into a full-blown dance club. The party vibe is more calm and inviting, as opposed to a disco's pressure of being expected to dance. There is more than enough room for dancing that people put to good use.

It's just as well, because discos aren't made for talking. They have a tendency to turn off the non-dancing crowd (ahem, ahem). Who likes being pressured into doing it just because everyone else is? There are other ways to be adventurous without displaying a deficient dancing repertoire. Jose Cuervo co-hosts the Saturday night scene, handing out pairs of free shots. The catch? You and your date only get them if you're doing body shots.

If loud music isn't your thing, you can catch a dose of soulful acoustic music on Tuesday and Friday nights. It's great background for a romantic date which, by the way, can be enjoyed at a special table for two on a second floor bridgeway that spans the room.

There are also two curtained VIP lounges right in the middle of the room that you can reserve for private parties. How private, again, is a matter of choice. Draw the curtains back and you can party with the crowd in your own special spot. It gives a feeling of being both aloof and the center of attention.

If it isn't too obvious by now, the appeal of Moomba is not focused on a certain group of people. There are so many ways to enjoy the place, depending on when you go and where you sit. And it would all be for naught if the food were sub-par. Fear not!

### Going to the birds

One of Moomba's crowd drawers is the menu, where you'll find four unique ostrich dishes made with meat flown in special from Down Under. Yes, those big birds. Their four specialty dishes are Ostrich ala Pobre, Ostrich Stew, Ostrich Poivre and Satay Ostrich—exotic and multicultural. The choice of ostrich is for more than just novelty. "It contains zero-percent saturated fat and lower cholesterol than poultry and meat. It's very healthy," says Jane.

According to USDA stats, ostrich meat has less than two percent fat by weight and about one calorie per gram. It easily edges out pork, beef, turkey and chicken at its breast, er, best. And did I mention it's good? No? It's really good. It's got the taste and texture of extremely tender beef cooked to perfection. It helps that it doesn't have "triple bypass" written all over it.

While the ostrich is undoubtedly an attention-grabber, the rest of the menu is no slouch. Another big seller is the Chinese Sausage Pizza, one among the long list of pizza and pasta dishes. Set menus are even available for lunch, helping hungry diners who have to stretch their budget. From appetizers to desserts, Moomba serves up a delicious intercontinental selection in generous servings.

### More and less where it counts

There's something to complain about in almost every nightspot. As such, there'd be at least one unhappy person in the group no matter where you go. Now where's the fun if someone feels out of place? The management did its homework and has swept a mountain of potential problems out of sight. Let's start with parking spaces. They have plenty available, and not the kind where you have to go out again and again to move your car for the poor people trapped three cars deep.

Lots of people shun weekend gimmick places because they're too smoky. The smell of cigarettes sticks worse than a bad habit. If I want fog, I'll to to Baguio, okay? Breathing is not a sacrifice for non-smokers, thanks to Moomba's excellent ventilation. Kind of hard to complain when I couldn't tell my friend beside me was smoking while my back was turned.

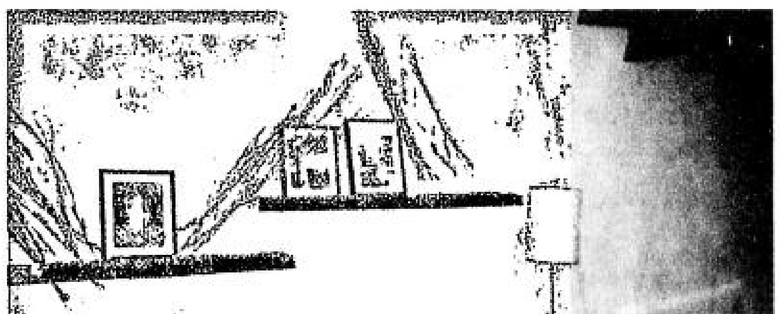
### Reinvention

Moomba started out as just another restaurant with a simple gimmick, destined to be a flash in the pan. People who know their way around QC must have heard about it, since it's about a year-and-a-half-old. About four months ago, the winds of change brought in a young management trio composed of chef Rowena Bautista, operations manager Gerry Ele II and our accommodating host, Jane.

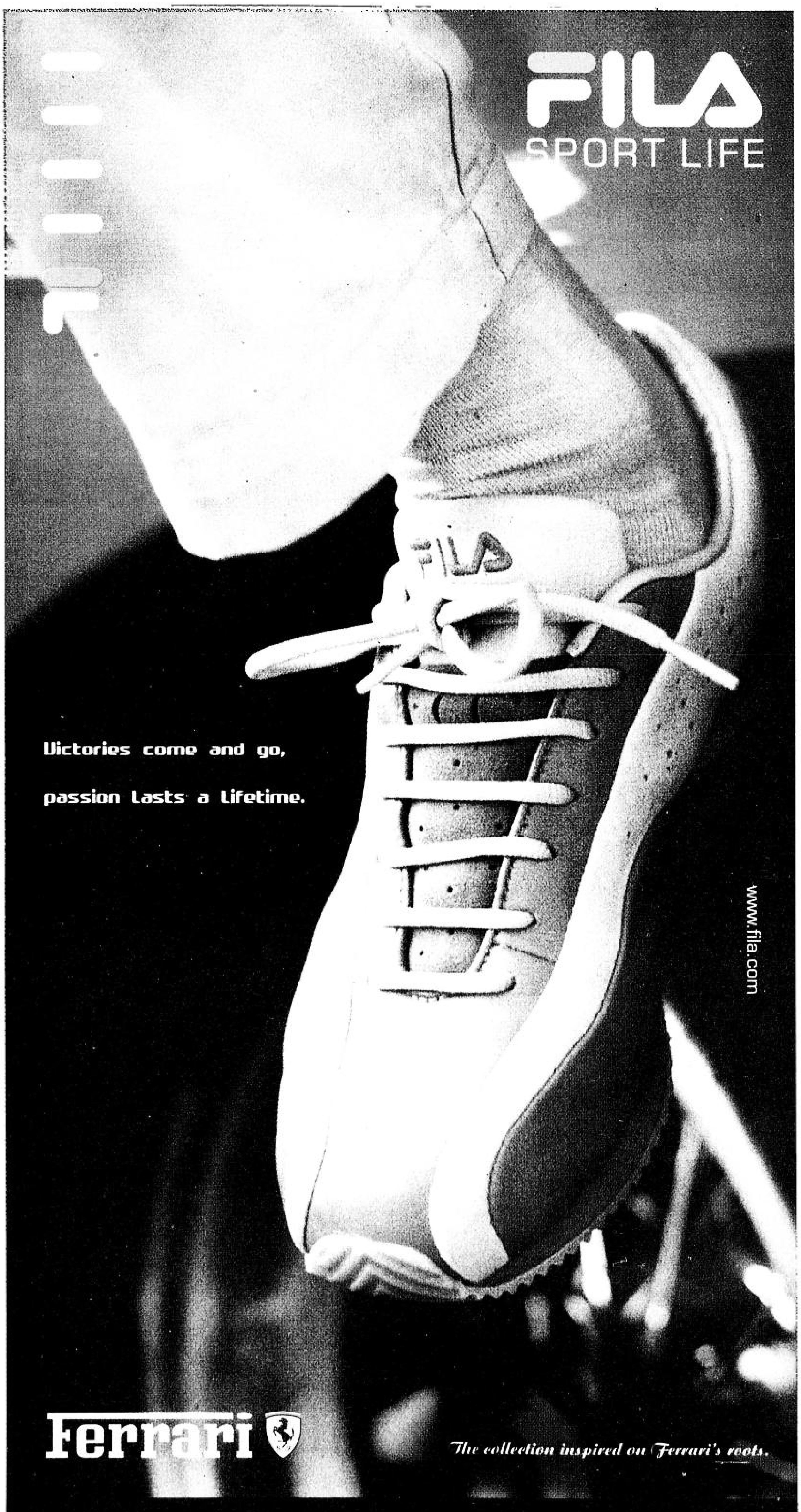
"We came in and changed a lot," says Jane. The task was to boost Moomba's image, and boost it they did. They put a little extra kick into the restaurant's design, menu and crowd appeal. These days, simply looking different or having one unique dish won't keep a restaurant afloat. It takes a difficult balance of elements combined with pretty good sense to keep the customers coming back.

This customer is no expert, but he'll be coming back for more. Many *barkadas* just want a place to kick back and enjoy each other's company on weekends. Most places only offer one or the other.

Jane sums it up best: "Good price and good food. If you want to party, you can party all night long."



SIT back, relax and have fun.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KAKOI Legaspi, Jeremy Kelly and Peter Coyle

# Unforgettable Lotus Eaters

By Christian B. Bautista
*2bUI Correspondent*

FORGING a reunion after years of hibernation, the Lotus Eaters delighted nostalgic New Wave fans with a concert presented by Studio 23 last Aug. 3 at the Rockwell Tent.

Re-emerging with a new album titled "Silentspace," the eclectic duo of Jeremy Kelly (guitar) and Peter Coyle (vocals), who normally jam with other artists even during recordings, collaborated with local band Rivermaya to belt out hits in the one-night concert.

Although playing classics like "First Picture of You" and "German Girl," the Liverpool-based group didn't pass up the chance to display new material.

Starting off the gig with a new track titled "Can Your Kisses Fly," the duo also performed other cuts from their new album, including the melancholic "Sara" and the upbeat "Stay Free."

Alternative act True Faith opened the show with some of their most popular material. Performing hits like "Perfect" and "Alaala," the Pinoy pop fixtures kept the crowd primed for the English duo.

### Back to the '80s

After recording several BBC radio sessions, the Lotus Eaters was first signed by Arista Records in 1982. The following year, the band got its first hit with "First Picture Of You,"

UNFORGETTABLE/ p.E4

> The large turnout shows that Filipinos have not consigned the famous New Wave band to oblivion

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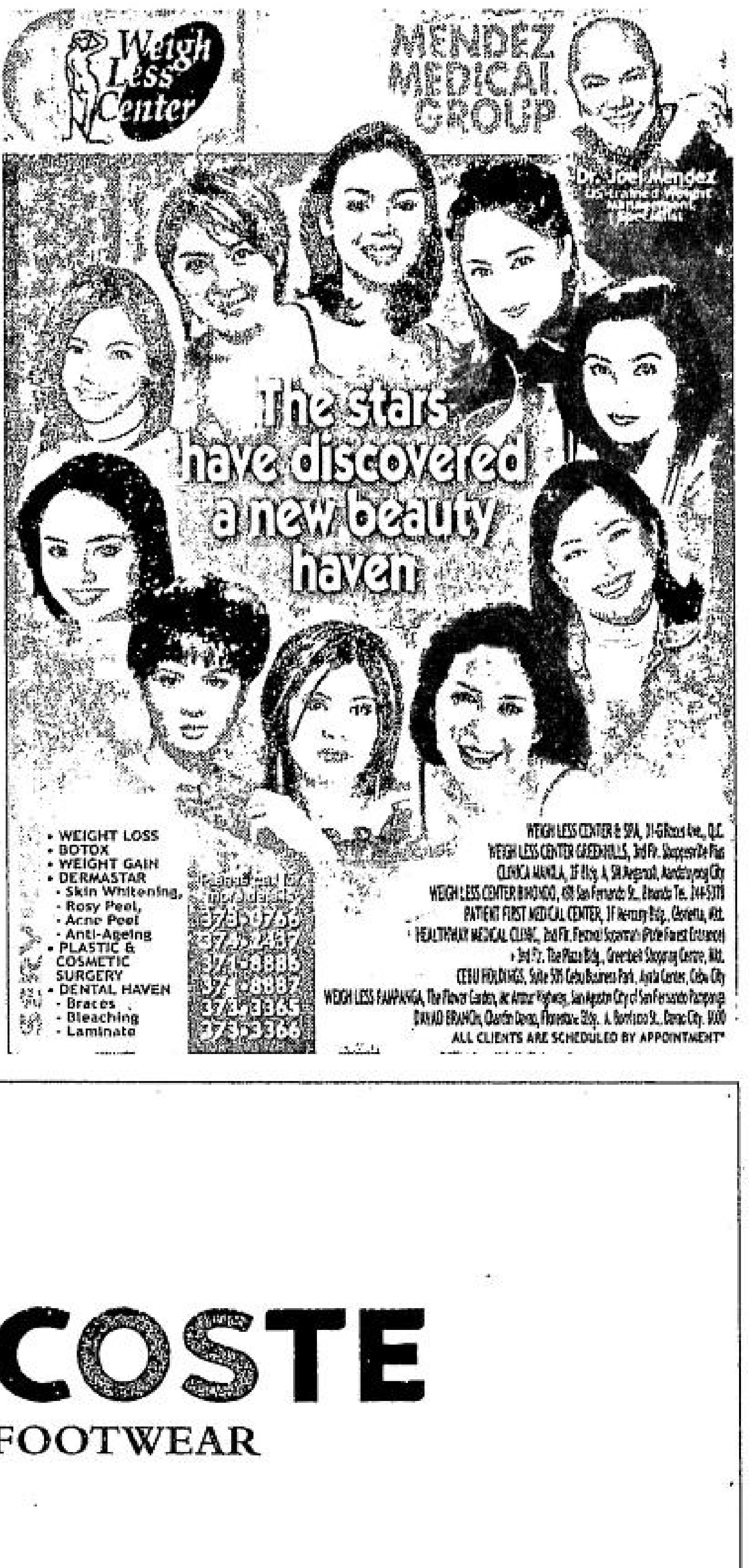

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HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pile Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Fl. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
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| Sex As A Weapon | Pat Benetar | TONE SEXWEAPON |
| So Emotional | Whitney Houston | TONE EMOTIONAL |
| Stars | Simply Red | TONE STARS |
| Surfin' Satan | The Beach Boys | TONE SURFINSAF |
| The Hardest Thing | 98 Degrees | TONE DHARDEST |
| Someone To Call My Lover | Janet Jackson | TONE SOME12CALL |
| Sometimes A Fantasy | Billy Joel | TONE FANTASY |
| Hit Me With Your Best Shot | Pat Benatar | TONE HITMEWITH |

**Top ten ring tones:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ain't It Fun | Jennifer Lopez | TONE AINTITFUN |
| 2 | Kahit Kailan | South Border | TONE KAHITKLAN |
| 3 | Build Me Up, Buttercup | Sound Alike | TONE BUTTERCUP |
| 4 | Le Freak | Chic | TONE LEFREAK |
| 5 | Sexy Saddle | Destiny's Child | TONE SEXYSAD |
| 6 | Farewell To You My Friends | Raymond Lauchengco | TONE FAREWELL |
| 7 | Saranggola Ni Pepe | Celeste Legaspi | TONE SARANGGOLA |
| 8 | Leron Leron Sinta | | TONE LERON |
| 9 | Let the Pain Remain | Side A | TONE LETDPAIN |
| 10 | Pamulinawen | | TONE PAMULINA |

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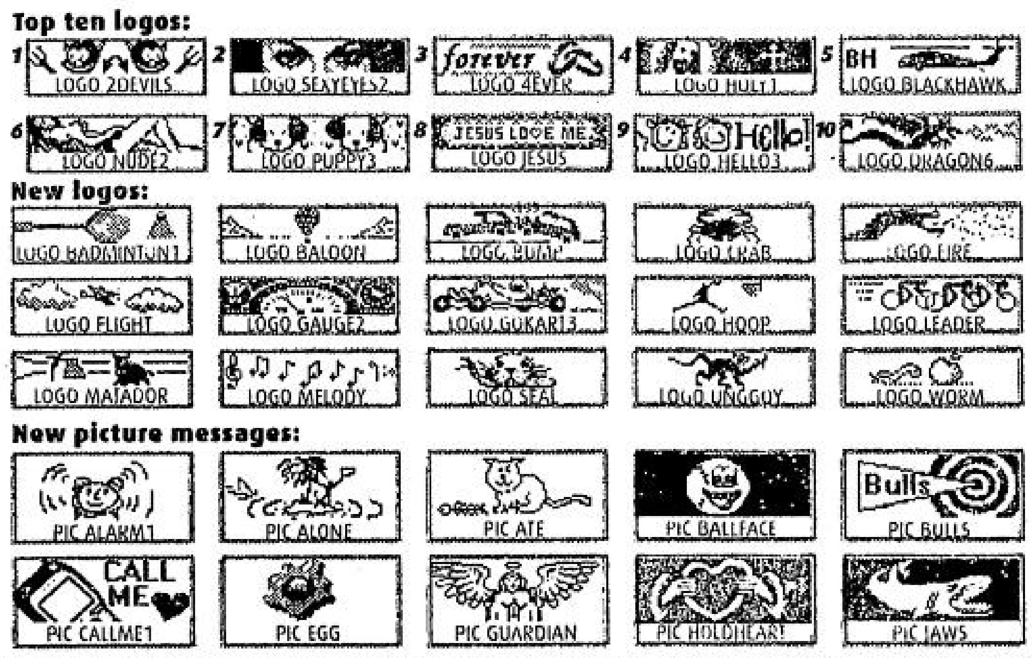

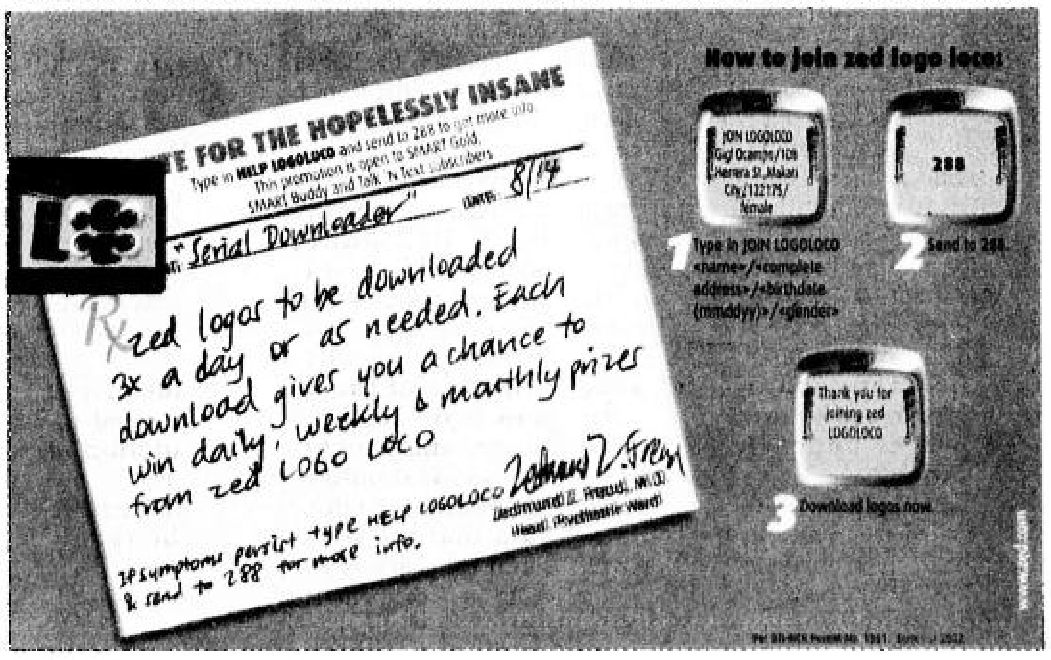

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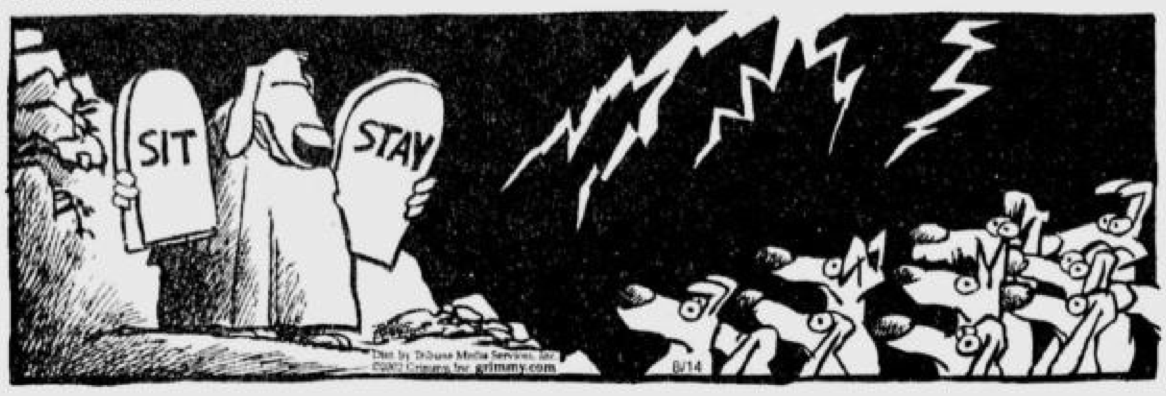
### MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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STAY
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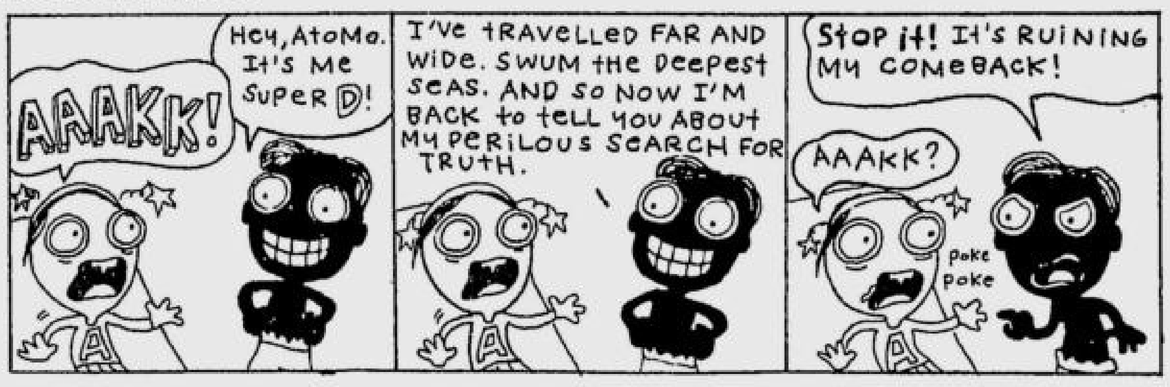
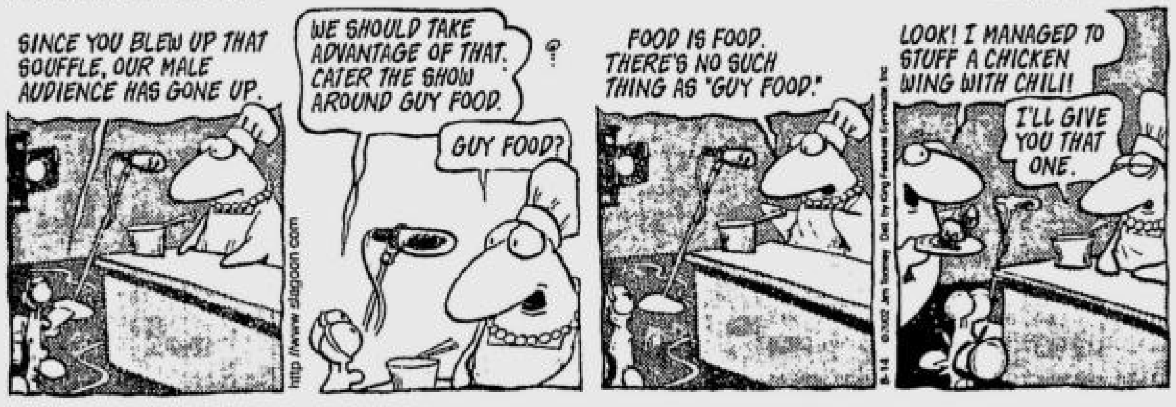
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAKK!
Hey, AtoMo. It's Me Super D!
I've travelled far and wide. Swum the deepest seas. And so now I'm back to tell you about my perilous search for truth.
Stop it! It's ruining my comeback!
AAAKK?
poke poke

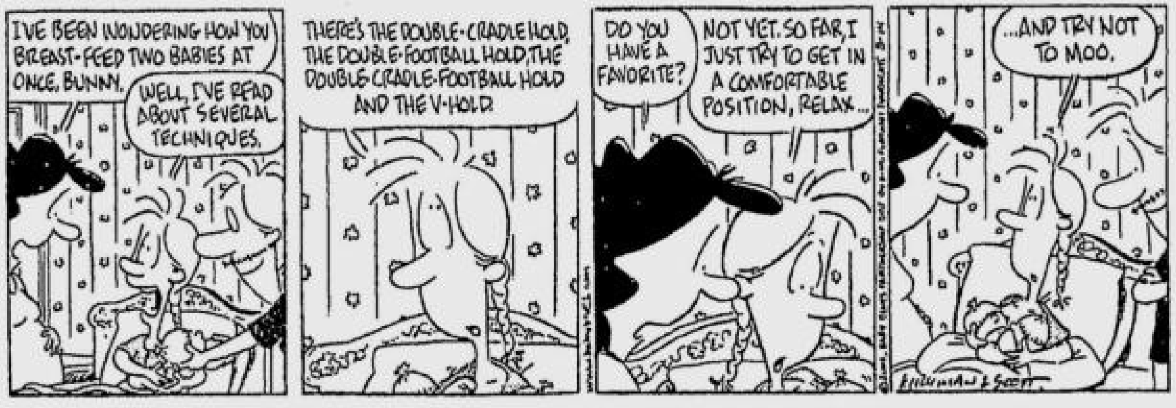
### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SINCE YOU BLEW UP THAT SOUFFLE, OUR MALE AUDIENCE HAS GONE UP.
WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT. CATER THE SHOW AROUND GUY FOOD.
GUY FOOD?
FOOD IS FOOD. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "GUY FOOD."
LOOK! I MANAGED TO STUFF A CHICKEN WING WITH CHILI!
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT ONE.
http://www.slagoon.com

### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW YOU BREAST-FEED TWO BABIES AT ONCE, BUNNY.
WELL, I'VE READ ABOUT SEVERAL TECHNIQUES.
THERE'S THE DOUBLE-CRADLE HOLD, THE DOUBLE-FOOTBALL HOLD, THE DOUBLE-CRADLE-FOOTBALL HOLD AND THE V-HOLD.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE?
NOT YET. SO FAR, I JUST TRY TO GET IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION, RELAX...
...AND TRY NOT TO MOO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Magic Johnson, Steve Martin, Danielle Steel, Halle Berry

**Happy Birthday:** You will have so many options it will be hard for you to decide what to do first. You will probably try to take on more than you can handle, and end up having to ask for help. Stay focused and determined and set your priorities. Work hard and accept the help you need. Your numbers are 1, 7, 23, 28, 36, 39

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Before you decide to make another large purchase, check to make sure that you can pay for it. Someone may need your help, and in return may be able to help you sort through your own mess.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll be sensitive and emotional today. Romance will be in the picture, so play it cool and don't take things the wrong way. Short trips to visit friends will turn out to be better than you anticipate.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Physical activities that are competitive, challenging and help you get back into shape should be your prime concern. Don't let emotional issues lead to escapist tendencies. Overindulgence will not solve problems.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your drive and determination will give you the competitive edge today. Develop one of your hobbies to a point that it could lead to something even more fulfilling. Romance is likely to develop.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This may not be the best day to voice your opinion or to try to get others to follow you. You can expect opposition from someone you live with or are trying to do business with. Work quietly on your own.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can expect to get something interesting in the mail today. This is the time to try new things and join new causes. You will meet new people at events you attend today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You may experience difficulties with people you meet through an organization. Disagreements are likely if you try to work with someone else. Go it alone and focus on creative projects.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will be feeling a little vulnerable today. You may find yourself lashing out at the wrong person. Check your motives and decide what is making you anxious and upset. Sit down and discuss your feelings.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):** Work behind the scenes if you want to accomplish the most today. Getting together with friends late in the day will prove to be enlightening. An opportunity to take a trip is likely.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your involvement with important groups will pay off if you are willing to put yourself on the line. The way you offer your findings, ideas and goals will be inviting.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** This is not the day to take chances when it comes to your income. Someone may be trying to step into your shoes. You need to surround yourself with positive people.

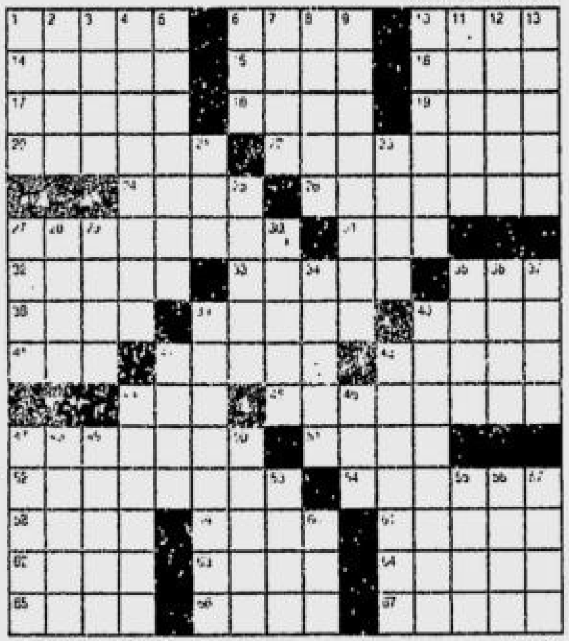
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will want to experience something unusual today. Travel or dealing with people from different backgrounds will be insightful. Daydreaming will serve its purpose today.

**Birthday Baby:** You will be determined and ready to stand up for your beliefs and your family. You will be a crusader and will always do whatever you feel is right.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**
1 Legal defense
6 Kettle covers
10 Roe source
14 Mantle's teammate
15 Journey
16 Nimbus
17 Smells
18 Use a rotary phone
19 Green-eyed monster
20 Parody
22 Fraudulent elixir
24 Nectar gatherers
26 Foolish
27 Larch
31 "__ Pinafore"
32 Leaves out
33 Parts
35 Priest's garment
38 Lillian or Dorothy
39 Becker or Karloff
40 Manitoba tribe
41 Colonial insect
42 Computer communicator
43 Ointment
44 K-O connection
45 Slaughterhouse
47 Sugar bowl's companion
51 Binary digits
52 Shari Lewis' puppet
54 Honda competitor
58 Nice girlfriend?
59 Vanities
61 State again
62 Fortitude
63 Dynamic opening?
64 Din
65 Understands
66 Comic Carey
67 Exchanges

**DOWN**
1 Famous cookie maker
2 Take on cargo
3 Fe
4 Avian tub
5 Publishers
6 Inc. in London
7 Eye part
8 Roman Artemis
9 Makes a watery impact
10 Charlie and Martin
11 Vietnam capital
12 Singing chipmunk
13 Sir Arthur Conan __
21 Leguminous plant
23 Basinger and Cattrall
25 Young haddock
27 Forum wear
28 Idi of Uganda
29 Vapor
30 Divided Asian nation
34 Intermediate state
35 One Guthrie
36 Jacob's third son
37 Pilsener or lager
39 Numskull
40 Bee's knees
42 3100
43 Thomas __ Eliot
44 Designers' IDs
46 Some
47 Talons
48 Flaxlike fiber
49 M. Zola
50 Jolly pirate?
53 Epidermal opening
55 Large landmass
56 Lock with a pin
57 Those in favor
60 Boar's mate


tmspuzzles@aol.com

By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
8/14/02

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | K | E | S | ■ | M | O | P | S | ■ | V | E | A | L |
| A | G | E | N | T | ■ | O | P | A | L | ■ | I | A | G | O |
| M | A | N | N | A | ■ | R | A | C | E | ■ | T | R | E | Y |
| A | R | O | U | N | D | T | H | E | W | O | R | L | D | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | I | D | E | A | ■ | ■ | S | R | I | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| U | P | S | ■ | E | A | R | T | H | ■ | T | O | N | A | L |
| L | E | T | T | E | R | ■ | W | E | T | ■ | L | I | L | A |
| C | R | O | S | S | T | H | E | R | U | B | I | C | O | N |
| E | L | I | E | ■ | H | I | E | ■ | E | U | C | H | R | E |
| R | E | C | T | O | ■ | S | T | A | N | S | ■ | E | S | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | U | E | ■ | ■ | I | N | K | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | O | V | E | R | T | H | E | R | A | I | N | B | O | W |
| T | R | E | E | ■ | H | E | L | M | ■ | N | A | I | V | E |
| A | N | I | L | ■ | E | R | I | E | ■ | E | F | L | A | T |
| D | E | N | Y | ■ | R | O | A | N | ■ | D | U | E | L | S |

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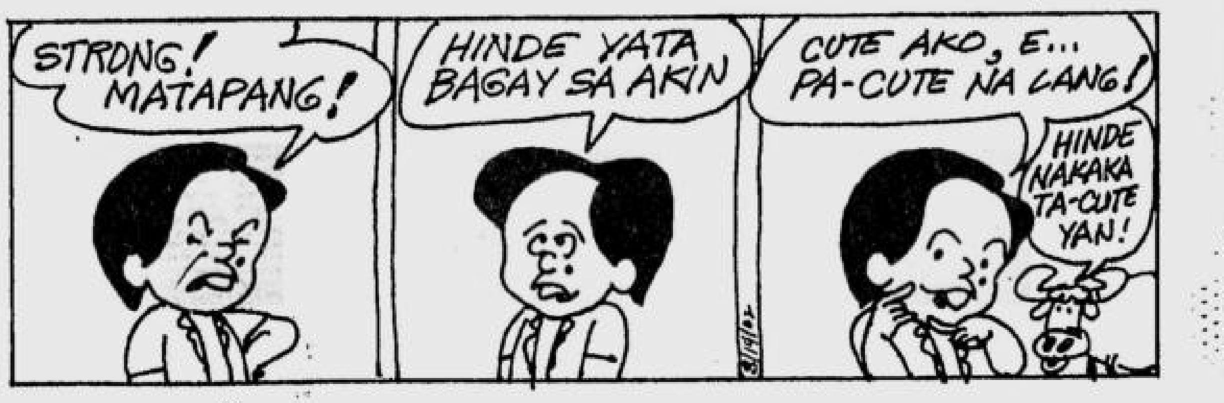
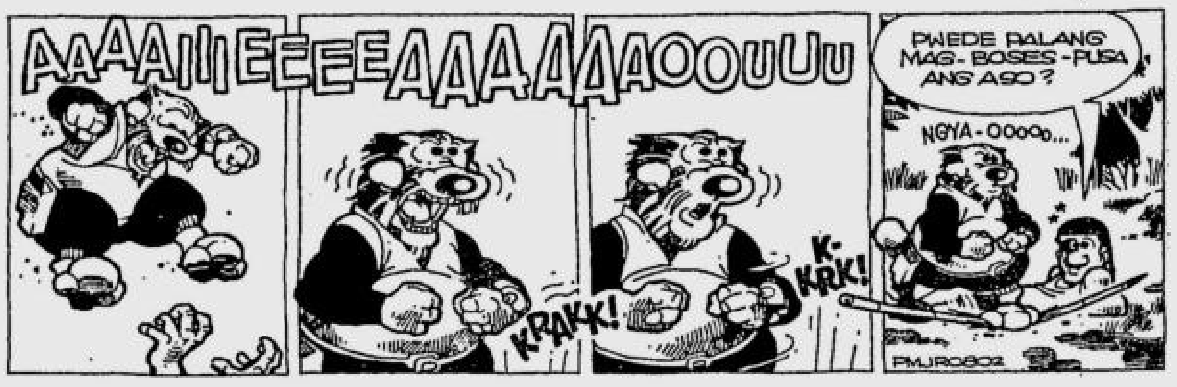
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


STRONG! MATAPANG!
HINDE YATA BAGAY SA AKIN
CUTE AKO, E... PA-CUTE NA LANG!
HINDE NAKAKA TA-CUTE YAN!

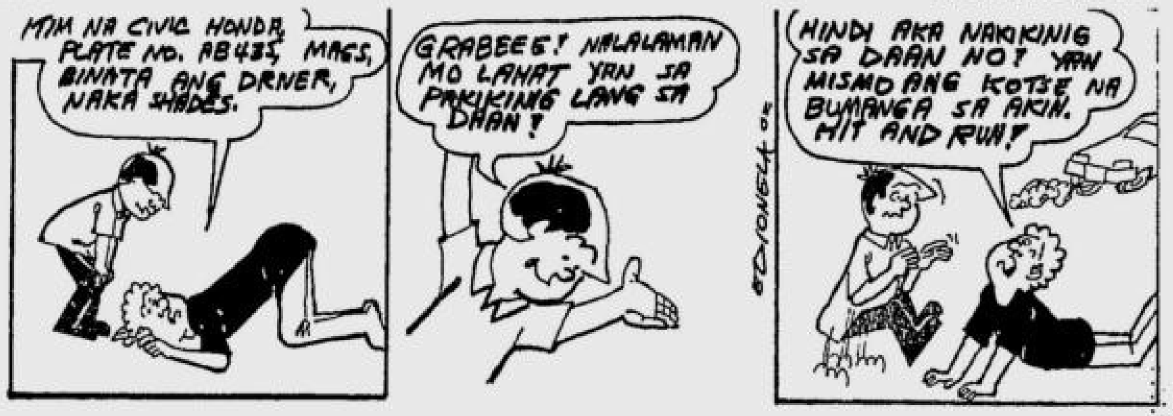
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AAAAIIIEEEEAAAAAAOOUUU
KRAKK!
K-KRK!
PWEDE PALANG MAG-BOSES-PUSA ANG ASO?
NGYA-OOOOO...
PMJR0802

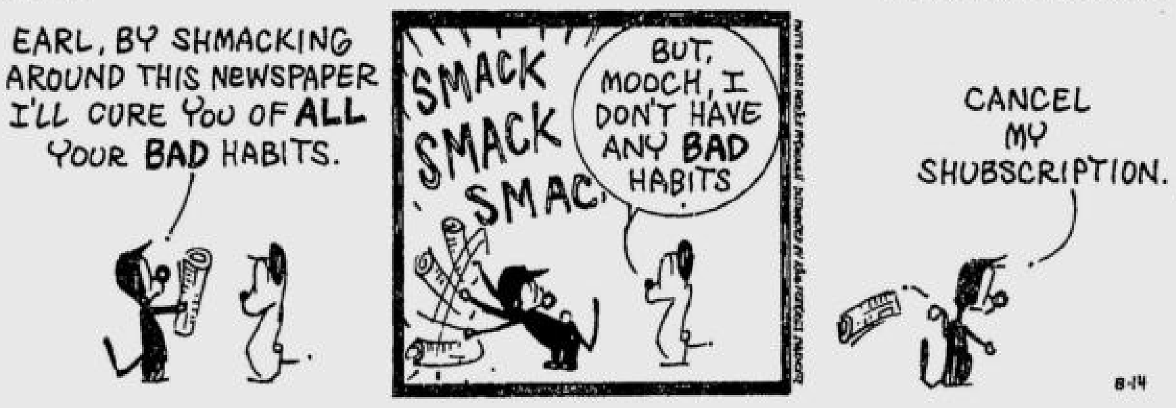
### SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MTM NA CIVIC HONDA, PLATE NO. AB435, MAGS, BINATA ANG DRIVER, NAKA SHADES.
GRABEEE! NALALAMAN MO LAHAT YAN SA PAKIKINIG LANG SA DAAN?
HINDI AKA NAKIKINIG SA DAAN NO? YAN MISMO ANG KOTSE NA BUMANGA SA AKIN. HIT AND RUN!
DIONELA

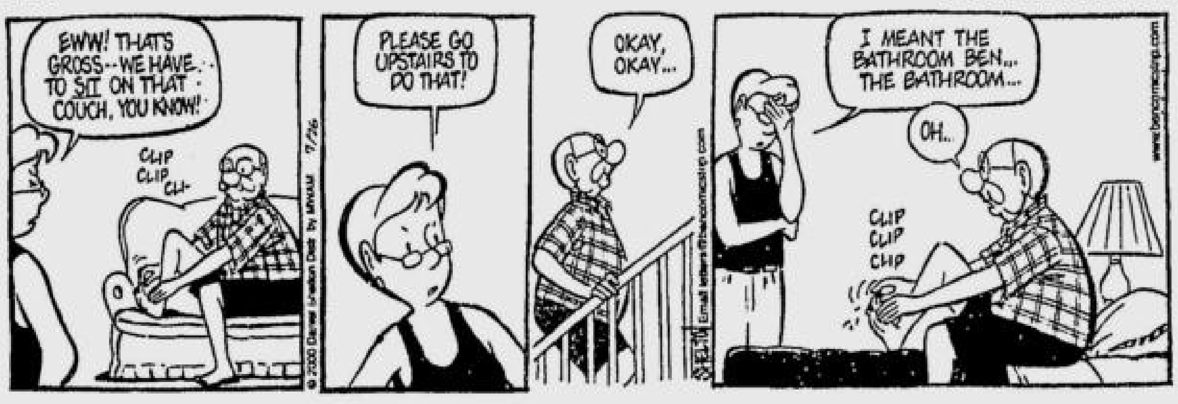
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, BY SHMACKING AROUND THIS NEWSPAPER I'LL CURE YOU OF ALL YOUR BAD HABITS.
SMACK SMACK SMAC
BUT, MOOCH, I DON'T HAVE ANY BAD HABITS
CANCEL MY SHUBSCRIPTION.
8-14

### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


EWW! THAT'S GROSS--WE HAVE TO SIT ON THAT COUCH, YOU KNOW!
CLIP CLIP CLI-
PLEASE GO UPSTAIRS TO DO THAT!
OKAY, OKAY...
I MEANT THE BATHROOM BEN... THE BATHROOM...
OH..
CLIP CLIP CLIP
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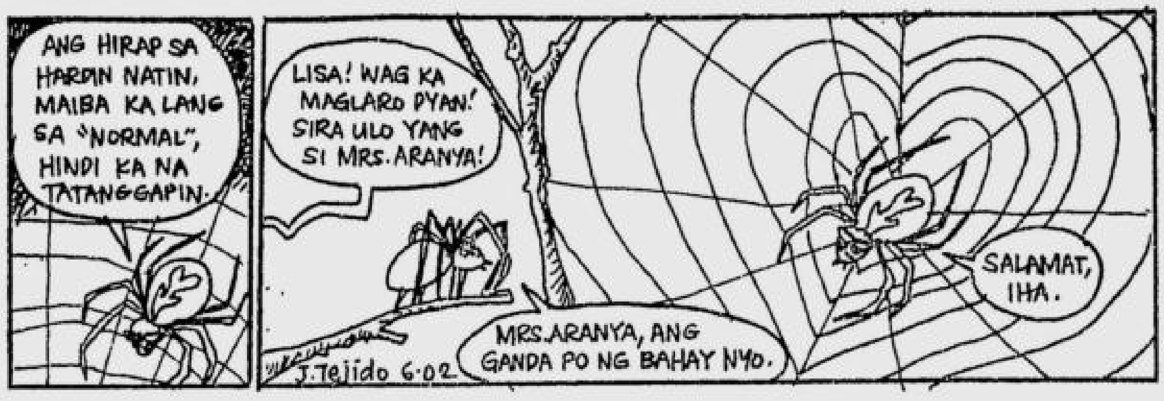
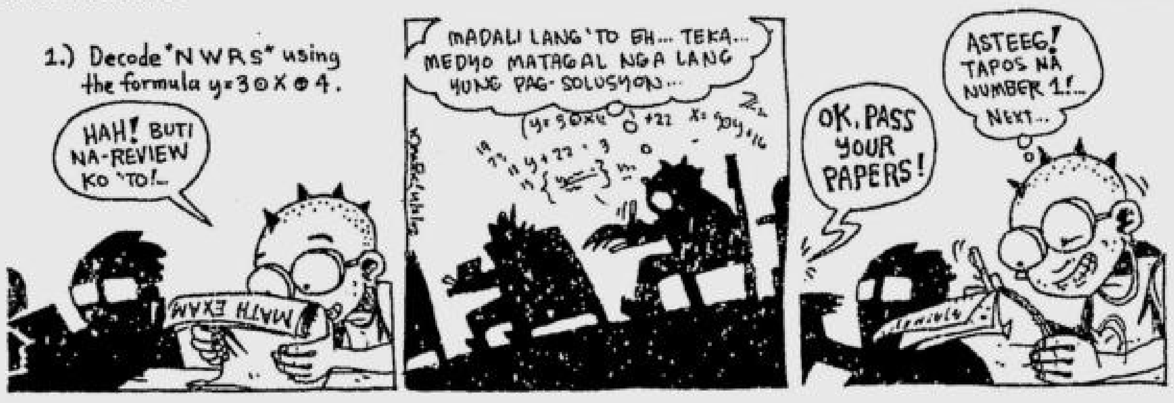
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG HIRAP SA HARDIN NATIN, MAIBA KA LANG SA "NORMAL", HINDI KA NA TATANGGAPIN.
LISA! WAG KA MAGLARO DYAN! SIRA ULO YANG SI MRS. ARANYA!
MRS. ARANYA, ANG GANDA PO NG BAHAY NYO.
SALAMAT, IHA.
J. Tejido 6-02

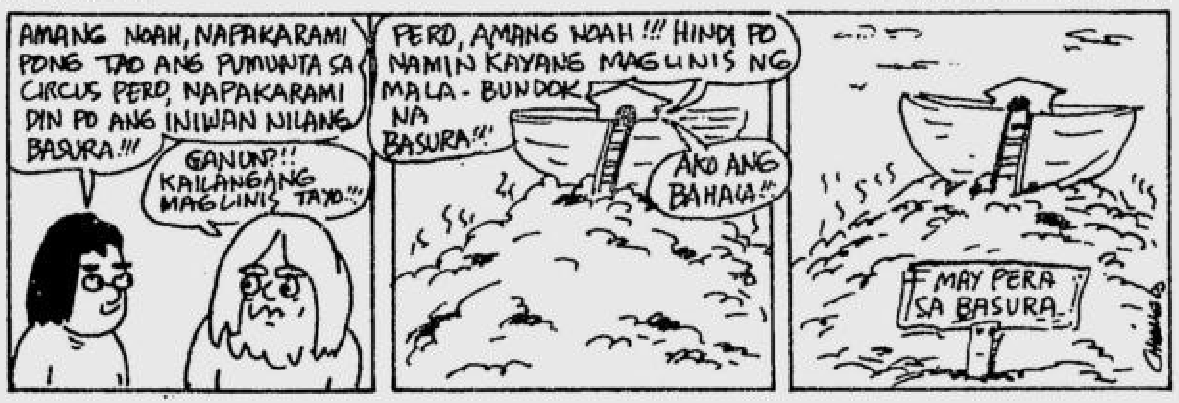
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


1.) Decode "NWRS" using the formula y=3⊙X⊕4.
HAH! BUTI NA-REVIEW KO 'TO!
MATH EXAM
MADALI LANG 'TO EH... TEKA... MEDYO MATAGAL NGA LANG YUNG PAG-SOLUSYON...
OK, PASS YOUR PAPERS!
ASTEEG! TAPOS NA NUMBER 1!... NEXT...

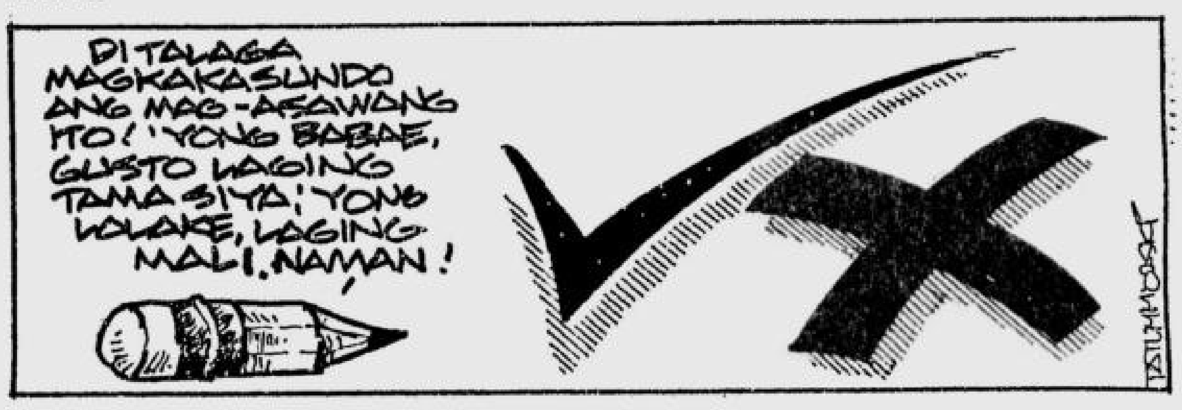
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AMANG NOAH, NAPAKARAMI PONG TAO ANG PUMUNTA SA CIRCUS PERO, NAPAKARAMI DIN PO ANG INIWAN NILANG BASURA!!!
GANUN?! KAILANGANG MAGLINIS TAYO!!!
PERO, AMANG NOAH!!! HINDI PO NAMIN KAYANG MAGLINIS NG MALA-BUNDOK NA BASURA!!
AKO ANG BAHALA!!
MAY PERA SA BASURA

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI TALAGA MAGKAKASUNDO ANG MAG-ASAWANG ITO! 'YONG BABAE, GUSTO LAGING TAMA SIYA; 'YONG LALAKE, LAGING MALI NAMAN!
TATUM&PAPU

# 2nd Inquirer debate championship set

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer is once again joining forces with the University of the Philippines Debate Society (UPDS) in staging the second INQUIRER Intercollegiate Debating Championship to be held February 2003.

The first competition gathered together more than 300 college students nationwide in the active discussion of current themes and issues being faced by the country today. This year's tournament promises to be bigger and better with increased participation from colleges and universities in the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Reaffirming their commitment during a special MOA signing ceremony last week are INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto and UP-Debate president Trina Firmalo. Witnessing the event are INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine R. Madamba, INQUIRER marketing manager Donald Lim, UP-Debate adviser Wendell Capili, UPDS senior vice president for internal affairs Darlyn Ty and UPDS vice president for social affairs Anna Ramos.

The INQUIRER Intercollegiate Debating Championship is the first and only Philippine debate tournament to utilize the Asian Parliamentary Format. Through it, students are encouraged not only to actively read and analyze issues but also to develop a discerning and critical mind.

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THE LOTUS Eaters and Rivermaya

# Unforgettable Lotus Eaters

From page E1

which reached Number 15 in the UK charts.

Unfortunately, the singles that followed shortly after, "You Don't Need Someone New" and "Set Me Apart," didn't get as much a response. In 1984, Arista released the band's first LP, "No Sense of Sin." Despite some hitches, the 19-track album garnered brief chart success in England.

The duo's tunes made it to the consciousness of Filipino listeners with the single "It Hurts," which was frequently played in the then-popular New Wave station XB-102. Upon its release in 1985, the track garnered the group a sort of cult following in the Philippines.

In the mid-'80s, the Lotus Eaters were eventually dropped by their record label, which led to the breakup of the band. Going their separate ways, Coyle released two solo albums while Kelly re-united with Paul Simpson and Alan Wills to form the Wild Swans.

## Performance

When the band played only a few riffs into "First Picture of You," the venue erupted in anticipation of the band's biggest hit. The crowd was on its feet as Coyle sang, *"The first picture of you/ The first picture of summer/ Seeing the flowers scream their joy."*

It was no different with "German Girl," which they played immediately after. A favorite among Lotus Eaters fanatics, the track had the crowd boisterously singing along.

Both songs had such a response that the group had to perform it twice.

What prompted the Lotus Eaters to create a sophomore album was Coyle's desire to prove he still had it. In his website, www.petercoyle.com, he said, "The main reason for this (Silentspace) is because in 1997, I was seriously questioning my ability to make music. I was seriously lacking in confidence and not at all sure if I had the energy or strength to go through all the hassles of being involved in music."

"Silentspace" does not deviate from the signature Lotus Eaters sound. Yet, its more mature approach is evident. As Coyle describes it, " 'Silentspace' is very personal. It is a chillout album. It is there to help you relax. It doesn't ask for your total attention. It is just there to help you do what you need to do to unwind. Hopefully, it will help you forget the rat race. Hopefully, it will help you forget all the external pressures of daily living. Hopefully, it will help you daydream. Hopefully, it will help you feel okay about yourself. You've probably noticed that you keep on reading the word 'hopefully.' That's no mistake, for if there's one word to sum up 'Silentspace,' it is the word 'hope.' "

MIKE Elgar of Rivermaya

JEREMY Kelly on guitars

TRUE Faith

PHOTOS BY STEPHAN EARL S CHOW

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# Bush promotes first Fil-Am to lieutenant general

STORY
BELOW,
COLUMN I

## Have you heard from Alma lately?

BA'T YUNG SIDE KO DI NARIRINIG ?

**By Leah Salterio and N. Bordadora**

YOU'VE heard the lovebirds over and over. But not much has been heard from the other side of the triangle, Alma Moreno.

HAVE/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## NBI throws book at Landbank cashier

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has gone and done it.

Acsa Ramirez, a cashier of the Land Bank of the Philippines who had blown the whistle on the P203-million tax diversion scam, was charged by the NBI in the Department of Justice with 11 counts of

NBI/A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, August 15, 2002 ★ 58 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 248 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# GMA junks slot machines

## *Pagcor project legal but morally unsound, the President says*

**By Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia D. Balana and Christine Avendaño**

**TWO days after the opposition blasted her for turning the country into a virtual "gambling republic," President Macapagal-Arroyo scrapped the plan of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to put up 2,000 slot machines around the country.**

The President conceded that the project was legal but morally unsound. "In light of strengthening the moral foundation of leadership, I am announcing that I am instructing Pagcor to abort the slot machine arcade project," she said at the launching of the Arsenio H. Lacson Foundation yesterday.

The President said her decision was final. "It is not a question of what is legal; it is a question of what is morally upright and morally sound," she said.

Ms Macapagal said the project would make slot machines accessible to the lower and middle classes as well as students. "This project is scrapped. If they have to raise money, they should engage in high-end projects that cater to the rich and famous," she said.

In Cebu City, Leonilo Oliva, school division superintendent, said teachers and parents were against the Pagcor plan as students might skip school or cut classes because of slot machines.

Malacañang initially defended the slot machine project, saying Pagcor was acting within its congressional franchise. It changed its stand amid strong objections from the influential Catholic Church and lawmakers from the administration and opposition.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said gambling values were the "real termites" eating away at the foundation of the

GMA JUNKS/A18

**GREAT day for a beaming President Macapagal, or so it would seem, despite pressing affairs of state, as she crosses over from the Premier Guest House to the Palace for a luncheon with Malacañang reporters on Wednesday.**

EDWIN BACASMAS

## GMA approval rating zooms in latest SWS poll

**By Carlito Pablo**

BRINGING down power rates, defeating the Abu Sayyaf and launching a high-profile campaign against crime have lifted the satisfaction rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to Malacañang.

The Social Weather Stations said 54.9 percent of the 1,200 respondents of a nationwide survey conducted on Aug. 6-9 were satisfied with the performance of the President while 26.5 percent were dissatisfied, giving her a net satisfaction rating of 28.

It was the President's highest since coming to office in January 2001. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

"This SWS survey, commissioned by the Crusade for a Better Philippines Movement *(See story on Page A17)*, also found that 60 percent approved of her leadership and that a 46-percent plurality trusted her as a person," said a draft SWS media release that Malacañang made public yesterday.

A beaming Ms Macapagal expressed satisfaction over the results of the survey at a luncheon for reporters covering Malacañang.

The President attributed the rise in her satisfaction rating to her "ability to solve the nitty-gritty problems."

She noted that her net satisfaction rating dipped to a low of 4 in June because of high power costs. She later brought power rates down by slashing the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge.

"We were able to find a solution so the people appreciated it," Ms Macapagal said.

GMA APPROVAL/A17

## Macapagal to accept Roco resignation

**By Carlito Pablo and Dona Z. Pazzibugan**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will accept the resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco because he "left her with no other choice," administration sources said yesterday.

According to a highly placed source, Roco had placed on the President "the onus of clearing him of (graft) charges even before these can be investigated by giving a public offer of resignation." *(Related story on Page A18.)*

"The President will not back down from this kind of political blackmail," the source said.

Another highly placed source said the President was not about to make an exception of Roco.

"She has accepted the resignations of people who used to belong to her Cabinet. Why should Roco be a special case?" the second source said, adding:

"If the President asks Roco to reconsider and takes him back, will this mean that she is already clearing him? That would not be possible."

Ms Macapagal, who is to meet with Roco over breakfast at 7:30 a.m. today in Malacañang, refused to comment on his resignation. "No comment until I talk to him, and maybe no comment even

MACAPAGAL/A18

## Fil-Am now US Army lieutenant general

FORT LEWIS, Washington—Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, a Philippine-born immigrant who became the Pentagon's homeland security director after Sept. 11, has been promoted and installed as commanding general at Fort Lewis, the US Northwest's largest Army base.

Soriano, 55, a native of Alcala, Pangasinan, became the US military's latest three-star general just before he was installed Monday as commander of the base where he was stationed as a young lieutenant nearly 30 years ago.

"It's a great day to be a soldier," Soriano said after an honor guard fired an artillery salute to the new leader.

He is the first Filipino-American to hold the three-star rank in the US Armed Forces.

Soriano succeeds Gen. James Hill, 56, who starts his stint next week as commander of the Southern Command, heading US military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Hill, who entered the service 34 years ago as a second lieutenant, was promoted to four-star general during ceremonies on Monday.

Hill said the promotion was "more than a little humbling." According to

FIL-AM/A4

THE OLYMPIAN

**A STAR, the third one, is pinned on the uniform of Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano by his mother Encarnacion and daughter Melissa before he took command of Fort Lewis and I Corps.**

## Dutch gov't freezes Sison, NDF assets

**By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil**

NOW that the assets of Jose Ma. Sison and the National Democratic Front have been frozen in the Netherlands, President Macapagal-Arroyo is hoping local communist rebels will be forced to sue for peace.

The Dutch foreign ministry announced late Tuesday that it was blocking all bank accounts linked to Sison, saying the 64-year-old communist leader is involved in terrorism.

The freeze order also covers assets of the NDF, umbrella group of all Philippine communist organizations. Both Sison and other NDF leaders are based in the Dutch city of Utrecht.

The move by Dutch authorities came after the US government branded the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as terrorist groups. Sison's name was also added to the US Treasury's list of individuals whose accounts are to be frozen.

It was the second time Dutch banking officials acted against suspected terrorists on Washington's request. In March, the finance ministry froze accounts belonging to the AD Afghanistan Bank.

The Hague also asked the rest of the European Union to do the

DUTCH/A18

## In 1 hour, Children's Hour nets P3 million

**By Celine Madamba and Norman Bordadora**

MORE than P3 million in one hour.

That's how much interest the Children's Hour campaign has generated to benefit abused and disadvantaged children in the country.

A steering committee of business and government leaders raised more than P3 million, or P3,243,343, in just one hour of pledging from some 20 major companies, organizations and individuals at the Children's Hour relaunch yesterday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

This year, the Children's Hour campaign aims to raise P30 million.

"Last time we raised P40 million. I don't see why we can't raise that same amount this time around," said Children's Hour steering committee chair Jaime

IN/A18

## *Second* FRONT PAGE

GRABE NAMAN !!!

# ‘Milenyo’ death toll rises to 22

**By Martin P. Marfil**

**THE DEATH toll left by tropical depression “Milenyo” rose to 22 yesterday as more reports of drownings and another landslide trickled into the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).**

Five of those who died were members of one family who were killed in a landslide that struck their home in Sitio Nagpatong, Barangay Pentat, Tinambac, Camarines Sur at about 3 a.m., Tuesday. One family member survived.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief and Regional Disaster Coordinating Council chair, identified the victims as Ramon Dumalasa, 49, head of the family, who died on the spot; Maria Dumalasa, 43, and three of their children, Ronald, 11; Ariane, 3; and Roland, 2. Raymund, 17, the eldest, was the lone survivor of the tragedy.

Barangay chair Jovito Tadeo said the Dumalasa family lived on the slope of a hill, which made them vulnerable to landslides. The village proper is located on top of the hill. Barangay Pantat is also reportedly located near a river.

In Binangonan, Rizal, the OCD reported that the death toll in the electrocution of persons crossing floodwaters into which an electric line had fallen rose from three to seven.

### More electrocuted

Those who died in the incident were identified as Ligaya Enopla, Ramon Navarro, Maryjane Pacheco, Adelina Pacheco, Moises Pangito, Maryjane Salitono, 2; and Cristina Pacheco, two months old.

Another death was reported in Rizal. This time, the victim John Christopher Santos, 18, drowned in Antipolo.

In Parañaque City, another teener, Ramoncito Jaylo, 17, was also reported to have drowned.

Four people remained missing in Negros Oriental, civil defense officials said.

Tropical depression Milenyo was moving to the South China Sea early Wednesday, carrying winds of 55 kilometers per hour, and was expected to be completely out of Philippine territory by early Thursday.

### More rains

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration canceled storm warnings that were in effect Monday and Tuesday in central and northern Philippine provinces. But it continued to predict rain and clouds in coming days for the entire archipelago.

In Negros Oriental, landslides, small tornadoes and a waterspout—a whirling column of spray-filled air—killed eight people on Monday.

About 3,500 people, mainly in Negros Occidental, 550 km south of Manila, were evacuated to public buildings.

Flooding in the main thoroughfares of Metro Manila subsided Wednesday after causing heavy traffic and paralyzing travel for a few hours around the capital Tuesday. School was also let out before noon, adding to the chaos.

Landslides triggered by torrential rain killed eight members of two families on the central island of Negros on Monday. ***With Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP, AP***

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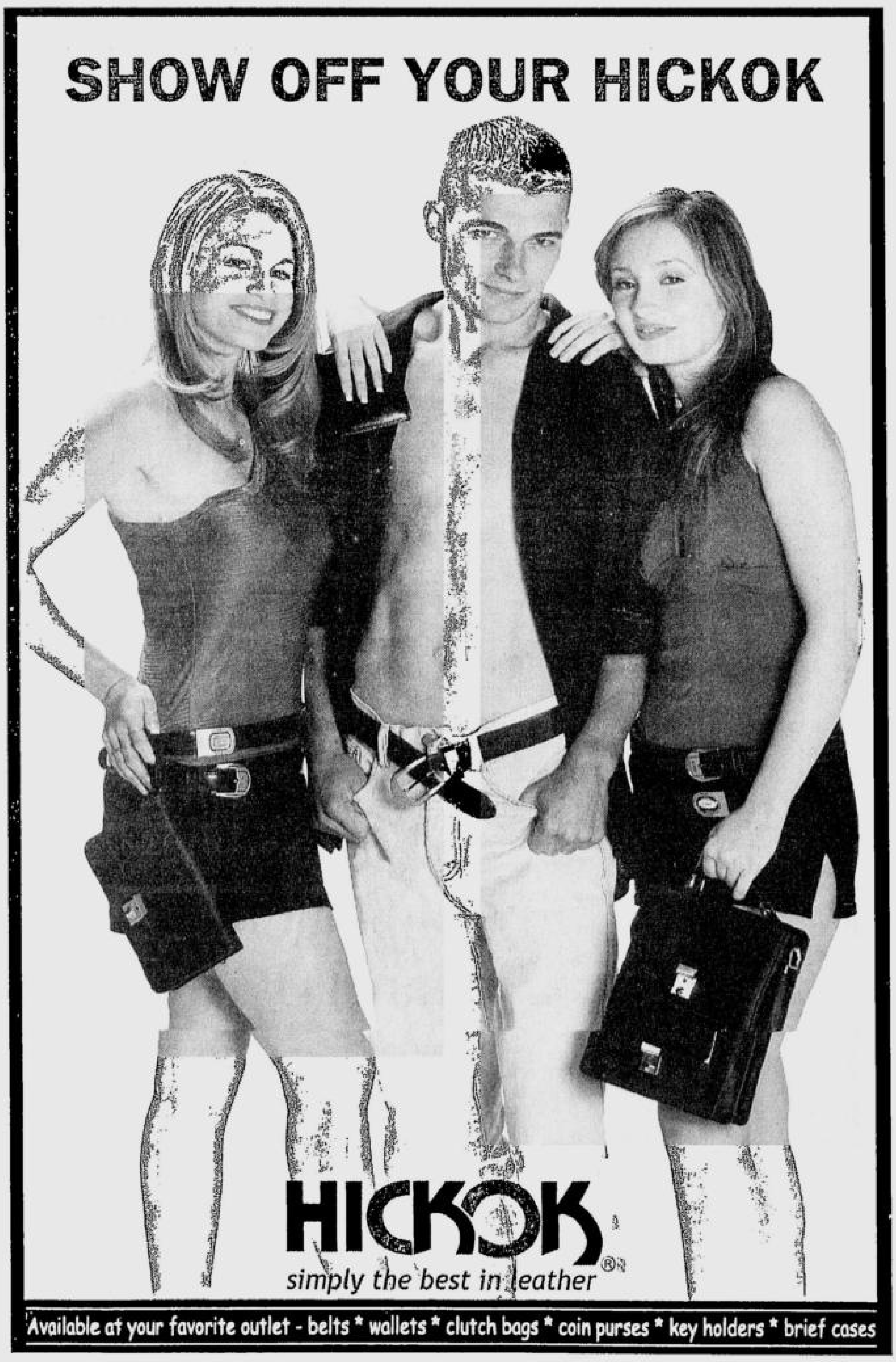
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FLOOD CONTROL

# It’s all yours, Fernando told

**By Armand N. Nocum**

PUBLIC works officials were only too happy to transfer flood control responsibilities to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, even as they raised doubts new MMDA chief Bayani Fernando could lick the flood problem.

“That’s one less headache for us,” said Public Works Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto.

As heavy rains brought by typhoon Milenyo hit Manila Tuesday, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong wrote Fernando a memorandum effectively transferring “all functions and responsibilities for flood control in Metro Manila” to the MMDA.

The transfer includes “programs, projects, personnel, equipment, facilities, records, assets and liabilities,” pursuant to a memorandum of agreement signed between the Department of Public Works and Highways and the MMDA on July 9.

Yesterday, DPWH National Capital Region Director Antonio Sta. Elena said it would take more than good managerial skills—which Fernando had displayed in Marikina—to solve the flood problem.

In a phone interview, Sta. Elena said, “One of the problems of flood control will be resources, particularly funding.”

According to him, floodways and pumping stations now on the drawing boards for Marikina, Pasig and the Camanava area would cost about P11 billion.

Even if these were completed, he said, improvements may not be felt immediately.

He said the drainage system in the metropolis is so bad it can only take 50 millimeters of rainfall.

When water volumes rise as high as 80 millimeters like last Tuesday, or 105 millimeters like in July, then big floods are bound to happen, he said.

Another senior DPWH official said Fernando—in taking over responsibility for the floods—may have bitten off more than he can chew.

“We are wishing him all the luck, with our fingers crossed,” said the official who asked not to be named.

# SC gives ‘Garchi’ ultimatum

**By M. Ubac**

THE SUPREME Court yesterday gave an ultimatum to relieved Sandiganbayan chair Francis Garchitorena to immediately dispose off his backlog of pending cases or face more disciplinary action.

The full court gave Garchitorena until the end of September to decide all the unresolved cases submitted for decision “with a stern warning that proper disciplinary action will be taken against him if he fails to do so.”

The extended deadline, the high court said, was “non-extendible.”

In a seven-page resolution, the Supreme Court also ordered Garchitorena to explain in 10 days why no disciplinary action should be imposed against him for failure to submit the list of cases submitted for decision that are still pending with him, including those that were “unassigned, unaccounted for or unreported.”

He was also required to explain why the resolutions and decisions enumerated in his compliance were not promulgated immediately; and why he resolved three cases ahead of the unresolved cases that were submitted for decision as early as 1990 to 1999.

# Desierto fails to make SC list

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

THE JUDICIAL and Bar Council has recommended nine nominees to the two vacant seats in the highest court in the land. And the most prominent candidate, former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, did not make the list.

After a secret voting, the JBC—which recommends replacements for vacancies in the judiciary—came up with a shortlist of candidates from which President Macapagal-Arroyo will pick two to fill up the vacancies.

The shortlist was transmitted to the President yesterday.

Included in the shortlist were five nominees from the Court of Appeals—Associate Justices Romeo Callejo, Conchita-Carpio Morales, Delilah Magtolis, Ruben Reyes and CA Presiding Justice Cancio Garcia.

Also included were nominees from the academe—Raul Pangalangan and Ruben Balane, dean and professor, respectively, of the University of the Philippines College of Law.

Completing the list were Sandiganbayan First Division acting chair Gregory Ong and lawyer Loreto Ata.

Desierto, Adolf Ascuna, former chief presidential counsel of then President Corazon Aquino, lawyer Jose Sison and eight other nominees did not get enough votes to make it to the shortlist.

Desierto’s arch-critic, lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., hailed the JBC’s decision as “poetic justice.” Francisco had filed impeachment charges against Desierto, one of three filed against the Ombudsman. None of the charges prospered.

Senator Francisco “Kiko” Pangilinan told the INQUIRER after the JBC meeting that only seven of the eight-member JBC were present yesterday. The representative of the academe, Alfredo Marigomen, retired on July 9 after completing his four-year term.

To make it to the shortlist, a nominee must obtain the “majority vote” of JBC members. Since only seven JBC members cast their votes yesterday, nominees must have at least four votes, said Pangilinan.

Pangilinan said that under the law, Ms Macapagal is given six weeks to act on the JBC recommendation.

POWER CONTRACTS

# Gloria warns FVR critics

**By Carlito Pablo**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned critics of Fidel V. Ramos the former president had “a story to tell” and those who sought to bring him down “should have second thoughts.”

The President came to Ramos’ defense once more against charges he was primarily responsible for alleged anomalous power contracts signed during his administration—deals that resulted in the high electricity rates today.

“You know, President Ramos has a story to tell and I think those who think they’re going to bring him down by investigating him should have second thoughts,” President Macapagal said, without elaborating.

Malacañang said earlier Ramos should not be blamed for the contracts, or the economic projects factored into these, that featured, among other things, the unpopular purchased power adjustment (PPA).

The Palace said the economic projects did not materialize because of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The PPA charge kicked in, however, and nearly doubled electric rates, raising howls of protest from affected consumers nationwide.

“He (Ramos) has a story to tell and he’s preparing his story very well,” President Macapagal reiterated.

A number of senators have been calling for Ramos to appear before the Senate to explain the circumstances behind several independent power producer (IPP) contracts signed during his term.

Sen. John Osmeña had cited Ramos’ refusal to appear before the Senate as his reason for defecting to the opposition early in June.

The Macapagal administration recently completed a review of the IPP contracts and found most of them needed re-negotiation.

Speaking on personal and collective privilege, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said yesterday Ramos should be made to answer “how and why” his administration entered into the allegedly anomalous IPP contracts. ***With Rocky Nazareno***

## ERAP PLUNDER TRIAL

# Defense quizzes Chavit on ledger

**By Gerald G. Lacuarta**

PAGE by page, defense lawyer Prospero Crescini scrutinized the figures in the ledger and attacked the inconsistencies in several entries, particularly those pertaining to amounts that supposedly went to his client, former President Joseph Estrada.

The cross-examination of former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson in the plunder trial of Estrada continued yesterday as the defense and prosecution crossed swords over the "jueteng ledger" offered as evidence that Estrada was on the take from illegal gambling.

"We're trying to demolish the evidence through cross examination, that's why we're going page by page," Crescini explained to reporters after the hearing.

The ledger was the same one presented by Singson at the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada in the Senate in December 2000.

### Errors

Cresicini pointed out erroneous computations in the ledger, particularly in entries dated between September 1999 and August 2000.

Singson admitted there were errors in the entries, but said he only became aware of these in August 1999 after he had turned over P123 million to Estrada.

He said Yolanda Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged accountant, had noticed in the ledger that an extra P650,000 had been given to the then president.

That explains why, Singson said, some entries in the ledger were marked "taxes"—amounts he had withheld in the remittances to Estrada representing his advances and other reimbursements ("abono").

Singson admitted that even though he had been aware of the errors before the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings on Oct. 1-25, 2000, he did not inform the senators of the inconsistencies as "it might affect the case (against Estrada)."

"We did not change the records (in the ledger) because we might be accused of fabricating it and jeopardize the case," Singson said.

### Memory lapses

Crescini also questioned the former governor's memory lapses, particularly in incidents when he claimed to have given jueteng money to some police officers.

Singson said the entry under the codename "Goma" in the ledger stood for police officials who had received jueteng money. He said it had been intended for then Philippine National Police Director Roberto Lastimoso, but he declined an initial bribe offer of P3 million.

He said Charlie "Atong" Ang, Estrada's close friend, then called him up and told him another police officer would pick up the money rejected by Lastimoso.

When asked by Crescini to name the police officer who picked up the money, Chavit said he could no longer recall.

"There was a time when the persons (picking up the money) changed," he said. "Sometimes their names were just called (in to us) and we would give the money to them."

But Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said the errors in the ledger were only in computation.

# FBI agents coming with Sobero DNA

**By TJ Burgonio**

AGENTS of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are coming to Manila this week to bring vital documents, including DNA test results, necessary for the filing of charges against the Abu Sayyaf for the kidnap-slay of American tourist Guillermo Sobero.

The DNA test results confirmed that the skeletal remains recovered from the site of the beheading were Sobero's, said Director Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

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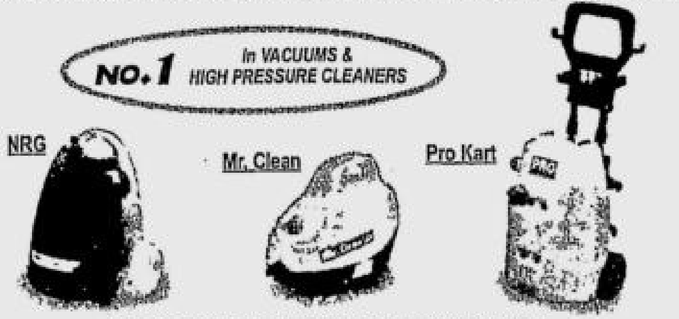

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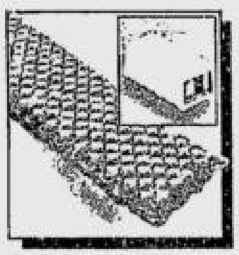

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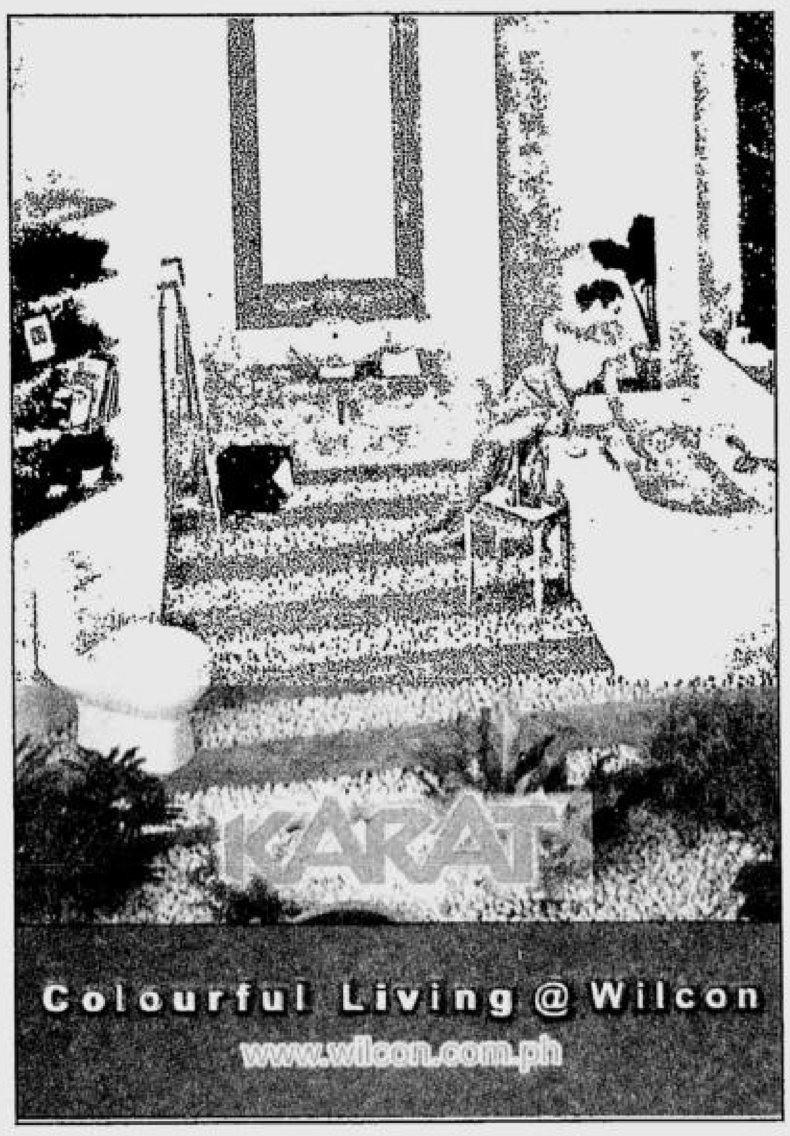

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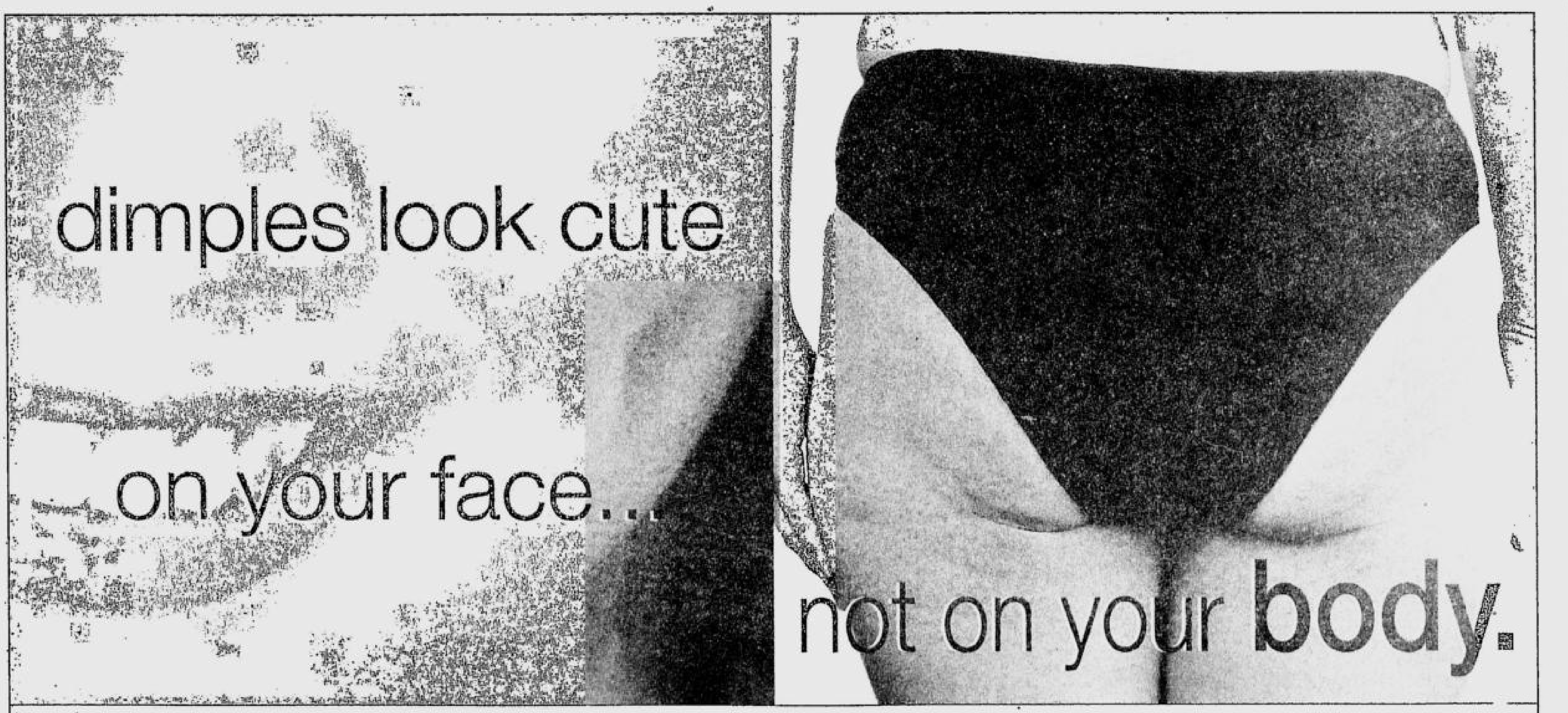
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# US aid to focus on training, says Reyes

WASHINGTON—US military aid to the Philippines in coming months will focus less on supporting direct anti-terrorism missions and more on training "so the Americans don't have to be there forever," the nation's defense secretary said Tuesday.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also said his government was holding "backroom negotiations" with Indonesia over the fate of several Indonesian members of an al-Qaida-linked Muslim separatist group jailed in the Philippines on terrorism charges.

Early this year, several hundred American troops arrived to help in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf Group. That organization—which both countries say has links to al-Qaida—had kidnapped Americans and Filipinos and fought with government forces in Mindanao.

During a six-month exercise which ended last month, US forces helped Filipino soldiers locate and kill some leaders of the Abu Sayyaf Group and rescue an American hostage, though another American and a Filipino hostage were killed in the raid.

## Night flying

The United States has pledged $25 million in additional military help for the Philippines this year, with an additional $30 million possible, Reyes said. That money will pay for teaching Filipino helicopter pilots to fly at night and also fund training for two elite anti-terrorism units of about 90 members each and four light infantry battalions, he said.

The United States also will train Filipino officers to be trainers for other Filipino units, Reyes said during a speech at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank.

"After that training, we will be able to do the training ourselves so the Americans don't have to be there forever," Reyes said.

The 1,200 American troops that participated in the Balikatan exercises this year included Army Green Berets who trained Filipino units on the southern island of Basilan, an Abu Sayyaf stronghold. The United States also gave equipment and intelligence information to Filipino forces that helped them track down and kill some of the group's top leaders.

The exercises also stirred controversy in the Philippines, which ejected US troops from two bases there a decade ago. The American soldiers were allowed to shoot only if attacked—but some opposition politicians criticized the exercise as a flexing of US military muscle in its former colony.

## Dwindling Abus

Reyes said the fight against Abu Sayyaf was a success. The group's membership has dwindled from a high of about 1,200 to fewer than 100 now, Reyes said, and has largely abandoned its former stronghold of Basilan in favor of the nearby island of Sulu.

"They are largely on the defensive, running for their lives,"Reyes said.

Reyes met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld Monday. Reyes said the two agreed to create a group of senior civilian policy makers from both countries to streamline cooperation between the countries.

Reyes also said Philippine officials are discussing with Indonesia what to do with several Indonesians arrested in the Philippines on terrorism-related charges.

Filipino authorities say the men belong to Jemaah Islamiyah, a group linked to al-Qaida that wants to create an Islamic state in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and parts of the southern Philippines.

Several Jemaah Islamiyah members have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot to bomb the US and Israeli embassies in Singapore—a plot foiled with help from evidence seized from al-Qaida hide-outs in Afghanistan. *AP*

# Napocor urged to close down 5 coal power plants

**By Rocky Nazareno**

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda yesterday asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to shut down five coal-fired plants of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) which were found to be emitting hazardous substances like mercury to the surrounding communities.

In a statement, Legarda charged that the five plants were in flagrant violation of the Clean Air Act.

Legarda said she based her call on the findings made by Greenpeace International and other environment groups that these coal-fired plants emit 750 pounds of mercury every year.

She identified these facilities as the 1,200-MW plant in Sual, Pangsinan; the 440-MW plant in Mauban, Quezon; the 700-MW plant in Pagbilao, Quezon; the 700-MWplant in Oyon, Zambales; and the 600-MW plant in Calaca, Batangas.

"Unless (these plants) comply with the safety requirements of the Clean Air Act, the operations of these plants must be stopped to avert further damage to the health of our people," Legarda said.

According to Legarda, Greenpeace activists recently barricaded the Sual plant to block delivery of more coal to the facility.

Legarda lamented that Greenpeace had uncovered mercury emissions in the surroundings of the Pangasinan plant.

Mercury is a neurotoxin that is so deadly that it takes only 1/70 of a teaspoon to contaminate a 10- to 11-hectare lake that makes fish caught in the area unsafe for human consumption, she said.

# Francia, 81

RAMON R. Francia, 81, a World War II veteran, died at 9 a.m. yesterday due to multiple organ failure at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

His remains were brought to the Ilang-Ilang Rm at the mortuary of the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

He left behind wife Florentina Mercado and children Raul, Rael, Rina and Riza.

He will be buried on Sunday (Aug. 18) at the Magdalena Catholic Cemetery in Magdalena, Laguna.

# Molester of RP girl nabbed in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia—Police arrested an Australian citizen on his return from Thailand Wednesday and charged him with child sex crimes committed in the Philippines four years ago, police said.

Australian Federal Police did not release the identity of the 52-year-old suspect, who was detained as he got off a plane at Brisbane's international airport.

In a statement, police said the man was charged with six offenses linked to overseas child sex tourism.

Under a rarely used section of the Commonwealth Crimes Act, Australians can be charged at home with child sex crimes committed overseas. The man is the 15th person to be arrested under the act since it became law in 1994.

The man faces a maximum sentence of 17 years imprisonment if convicted, said police spokesperson Beryl Janz.

The man allegedly sexually assaulted a girl under the age of 16 on six occasions while he was visiting the Philippines in July 1998, the police statement said.

He was scheduled to appear for an arraignment hearing Thursday at Brisbane Magistrates Court. *AP*

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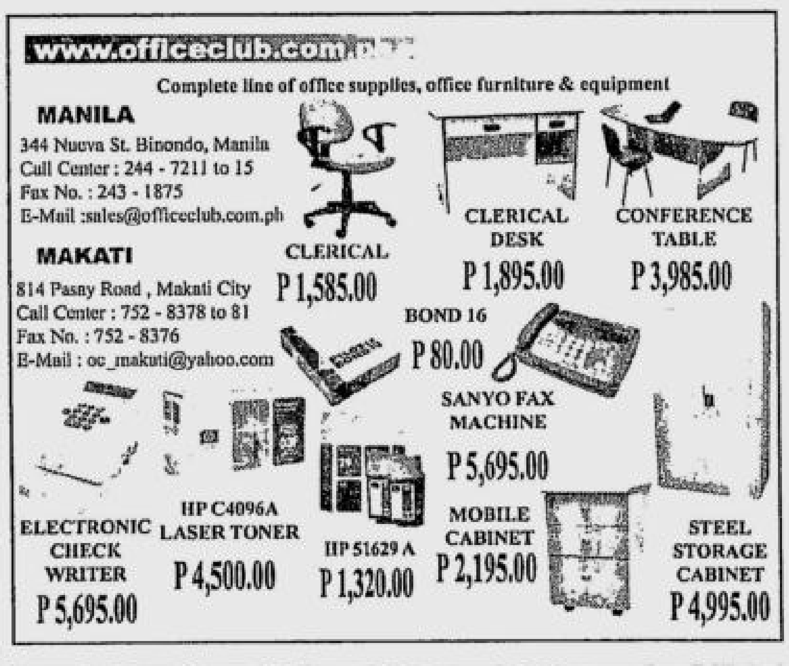

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From page A1

violating the Anti-Money Laundering Law. She could face a maximum of 44 years in jail.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said Ramirez failed to report 11 transactions—each worth P4 million and above—to the Anti-Money Laundering Council as required by law.

Ramon Joven, Ramirez's predecessor at the Landbank branch in Binangonan, was also charged with six counts of the same violation for not reporting six transactions, all beyond the P4-million threshold.

Each count carries a penalty of six months to four years in jail and/or a fine of P100,000 to P500,000.

"We regret that this episode will end like this," said Wycoco, who had earlier drawn flak for the presentation of Ramirez as a suspect at a press conference attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We at the NBI don't enjoy filing charges against anyone, and we commiserate with them," he said. "We understand the feelings of the families of both Joven and Ramirez, but we have to do our duty."

Ramirez's lawyer, Virginia Suarez Pinlac, said they were not surprised because "Wycoco's (recent) actuation" had hinted that the NBI would eventually charge her client.

Pinlac said she would not comment on the specific accusations until she had received a copy of the charge sheet.

## 11 deposits

Wycoco said that based on the bank documents that the Anti-Money Laundering Council gave the NBI, Ramirez did not report 11 deposits intended for three of the fraudulent four accounts that a syndicate used to divert P203 million in tax money.

The four accounts—with the fictitious names Roberto S. Lucero, Alma A. Clemente, Jose M. Francisco and Joven C. Aquino—were opened during Joven's term. But the deposits continued even after Ramirez took over in April.

Under the Lucero account, Ramirez signed financial transaction reports that approved three deposits: on May 2 (P4 million), May 13 (P11,233,100.21), and June 13 (P12,164,415.12).

Under the Clemente account, she approved deposits on May 2 (P7,756,764), May 13 (P7,648,377.60), and June 13 (P9,990,250.40).

And under the Aquino account, she gave the go-signal to deposits on May 13 (P5,865,648) and May 13 (P36,535,067).

Wycoco said this showed that the NBI's investigation of Ramirez "had basis from the start."

In her sworn statement, Ramirez said she reported the suspicious deposits to the branch manager, Artemio San Juan Jr., especially after she noticed that they usually arrived on the same day.

But San Juan allegedly assured her that there was nothing wrong with the transactions.

The NBI has charged San Juan with 17 counts of non-disclosure. It began investigating Ramirez when San Juan implicated her.

Wycoco also showed the media yesterday a flow chart of the bogus P26-billion Esmayatin D. Bonsalagan account, which Ramirez had exposed to her superiors.

The NBI director said that the account was opened on June 14 with the initial deposit of P26 billion through a Chinabank check, and that Ramirez exposed it three days later.

Pinlac, however, said Ramirez reported it on June 14.

She said Ramirez first alerted San Juan but he assured her client that the deposit was valid and that he had checked it "with Chinabank."

Still worried, Ramirez then informed her regional area head, Landbank assistant vice president Carmencita Bayot.

Bayot contacted Chinabank and confirmed that the check was spurious.

It was this exposé that led the Landbank to conduct a special audit that subsequently uncovered the syndicate's four fraudulent accounts.

Pinlac said Ramirez also informed Landbank officials of her suspicions about the four fictitious accounts.

## State witness

Wycoco said it would be up to the prosecutor to determine whether Ramirez could become a state witness.

"It's really up to her if she wants to be a witness. A state witness should be the least guilty, and her revelation should lead to the solution of the case," Wycoco said.

Ramirez, however, has been reluctant to talk with the NBI since her presentation to the media on Aug. 2.

Wycoco said the NBI was still trying to determine who should be charged with plunder for the tax diversion scam.

Plunder, a capital offense, is punishable with death.

# Fil-Am now US Army lieutenant general

From page A1

him, his new Miami-based post is the "culmination of a life's work" and will be both challenging and exhilarating.

Before Soriano was put in charge of the Pentagon's new homeland security directorate, he commanded Fort Carson in Colorado. Forts Lewis and Carson have long been among the most sought-after duty stations for soldiers.

Soriano pledged to continue building close ties between the Army post and its Pierce County neighbors.

"The support of the community and all the local leadership, whether it's the city or state government, is so vital to our success," he said.

During Hill's tenure, the base became the focal point of the Army's effort to transform its fighting forces and won recognition for its relations with surrounding communities and for protecting the environment.

Few Army posts have as many projects under way. The fort serves as home base of the first two medium Stryker brigades that can be quickly deployed like light infantry, but with some of the punch of heavy armor.

The first brigade will be deployed to help fight the war on terrorism when it's ready for action in May next year, Hill said.

A Stryker armored vehicle was parked near Soriano as he addressed an audience of more than 300 soldiers, officers and guests, including 23 members of his family.

Soriano said his priorities are "mission first, people always and one team."

## Move to California

Soriano's family moved to Salinas, California, in the 1960s. Soriano holds a bachelor's degree in management from San Jose State University and a master's in public administration from the University of Missouri.

After graduation from college, he was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant. He has commanded infantry companies in South Korea, Fort Lewis and Germany.

He served as Army liaison to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and became an assistant commander in Bosnia.

Soriano was commander of Fort Carson from 1999 until he became first commander of homeland security for the US Joint Forces Command last fall.

Fort Lewis soldiers said they were sad to see the popular Hill leave, but added they were eager to see how Soriano would do.

"Change is something we adapt to all of the time," said Master Sgt. LaToya Sizer. "We're kind of happy and sad at the same time." *AP*

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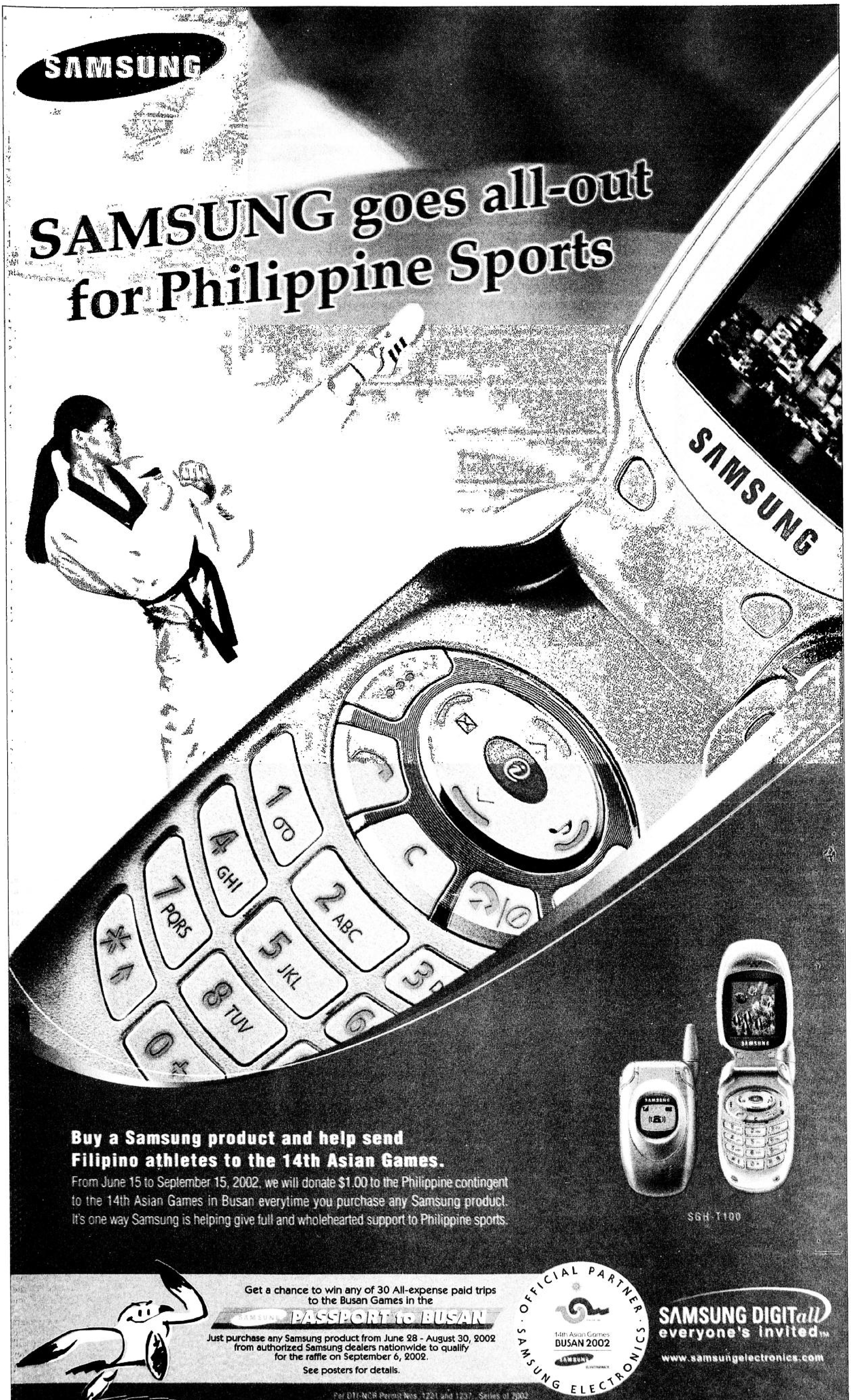

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## Bad calls

**EDITORIAL**

THE RESIGNATION of Education Secretary Raul Roco from the Cabinet has rocked the Macapagal administration for the second time in less than a month, following the exit of Vice President Teofisto Guingona from the Department of Foreign Affairs in mid-July. These resignations have reinforced public perception that the administration has either gone berserk or come unstuck.

Roco resigned after Chair Dario Rama of the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption announced to the press that he would investigate graft charges against Roco. Rama acted on an "endorsement" by President Macapagal-Arroyo of an unverified complaint made by a group of Department of Education employees.

What's rather odd was the timing of the investigation. The complaint was burnished for public airing after it had been languishing in the files for more than a year, and, suspiciously, after the recent release of a very premature public opinion survey showing Roco pulling ahead of the President if the elections were held today.

In an effort to contain the political damage caused by the announcement, Press Secretary Alfredo Bunye explained the endorsement as a "ministerial" chore— i.e., routine—and said the announcement was "blown out of proportion."

Roco has a strong reason to be stung by the announcement and to take it as a signal of loss of confidence. The way the "endorsement" was handled suspiciously replicates the duplicitous dismissal of Guingona. Last July, the Palace leaked a prepared letter of resignation of Guingona despite the fact that he had agreed with the President that he would quit on Aug. 15 in a graceful parting of ways.

Apparently, some groups moving in the shadows of the Palace had whispered derogatory information to the President, prompting her to disclose the Guingona resignation letter ahead of the agreed time. The same pattern of pushing out people from the Cabinet has emerged in the case of Roco.

Certainly, the complaint against Roco requires serious investigation, but Roco made a good point when he said that the President could have confronted him with it before the anti-graft commission released it. Roco was not given the courtesy of being asked to explain before the complaint was thrown into the maws of trial by publicity—a tactic for which the President seems to have developed a proclivity to boost her campaign against crime and corruption.

Roco cannot be more accurate when he described the trigger-happy mentality of the administration as a policy of "humiliating people."

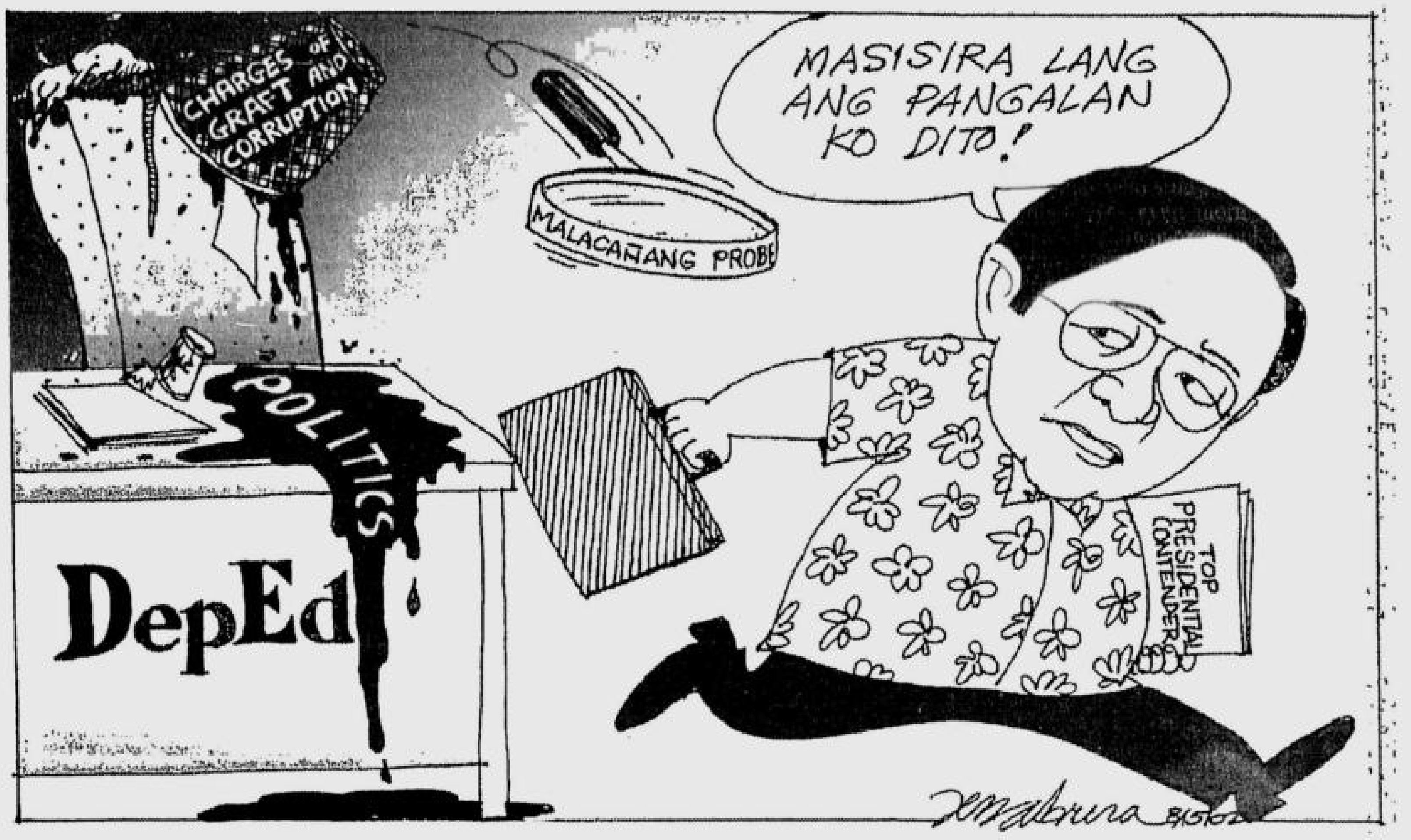
The President's handling of Guingona's resignation and of the complaint against Roco exhibits a maladroit act whose effect is to smear her own political allies. Her actions in these two cases have embroiled her in controversies that weaken her old coalition as well as cast serious doubts on the maturity of her political judgment.

The controversy stirred up by these resignations highlights the President's capacity to create unnecessary problems for herself. Her flawed decisions create the perception that she is not in control and raise questions about whether she has come under the influence of nonaccountable and shadowy advisers lurking in the backdoors of power.

There was no need to antagonize Guingona with the premature release of the resignation letter—even though the President and Guingona had fundamental policy differences—or in triggering a broadcast by Rama of his investigation.

The President has all but lost two of the strong pillars of her political coalition that unseated former President Estrada. But to maintain her political strength, after she had alienated other allies in the anti-Estrada coalition, she has to replace what she has lost with stronger allies. This has not happened in the DFA. Roco, out of the Cabinet and withdrawing support from the President, is a more dangerous threat to the survival of the Macapagal presidency, given that their electoral bases could be split.

It seems that the Palace corridors are seething with inputs from political advisers, who in their obsession to promote Ms Macapagal's reelection are actually wrecking her electoral chances. It's time for her to know who are her friends and her enemies. Self-proclaimed "friends" can also be her worst enemies.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## Lucky guys abound at Napocor

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE GODS must be smiling at the National Power Corp. There are so many lucky guys in this state firm, although the firm itself is losing billions of pesos.

Yesterday, this column narrated the rise of a Napocor official whom a team of investigator-auditors, according to official documents, recommended to be charged criminally and administratively for irregularities. Nothing of the sort happened. Instead, he was promoted. Only in the "strong republic" that is the Philippines.

Here is another lucky guy at Napocor. His name is Alberto Pangcog. He is the corporate secretary of Napocor. I am repeating the case histories because President Macapagal-Arroyo is asking for names to help her anti-corruption drive.

According to official records, Pangcog was dismissed from the lower position of legal counsel, only to resurface with a promotion as corporate secretary. A case of "you can't put a good (bad?) man down."

In September 1997 (according to records), Pangcog was separated as Napocor legal counsel by then Napocor president Guido Delgado.

In a memorandum to Pangcog, Delgado did not mince words in noting his (Pangcog's) "incompetence." Delgado told Pangcog that the Napocor board "found your performance not at par with standards it expects of the legal counsel of the country's biggest corporation."

At least four irritating actions of Pangcog were highlighted in the memo:

1. "He sat for the longest time on the legitimate collections of Alcatel in its contracts with Napocor. When he finally acted, the peso had significantly devalued, causing Napocor substantial losses in terms of higher exchange rates.

2. "He was absent from a critical meeting between Napocor, as represented by his good self, and Batangas local officials regarding the construction of power barges. It turned out he went to Batangas but reportedly proceeded, according to documents, to inspect a property he was planning to buy. He arrived at the meeting, scheduled at 11 a.m., at 4 p.m. Of course, the Batangas officials had already left by then.

3. "On the eve of the pre-bid conference of the CBK project, he was seen 'drinking' with Impsa officials at Casablanca, a pricey karaoke bar at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel complex (where Impsa's Philippine point man, Ruben Valenti, resides), noted for its alluring GROs." Questioning Pangcog's "prudence and responsibility," Delgado noted in his memo that news of the night out "has spread not only within but also outside Napocor and has put Napocor in a bad light."

4. "Pangcog chose to go abroad when Napocor officials were undergoing weekly investigations in both the Senate and the House of Representatives."

Because of his "inability to meet the Napocor board's expectations," Pangcog was given until the end of 1997 to serve as legal counsel.

However, he was able to worm his way back to the circles of succeeding Napocor presidents Federico Puno, Jess Alcordo, and now Roland Quilala. And what do you know, he now sits as Napocor's corporate secretary.

Regarding the CBK project, it was Pangcog, according to Senate records, who allegedly brought two versions of the contract to Malacañang for the signing ceremony then witnessed by President Estrada: one the BROT contract approved by the National Economic Development Authority, and the other a version of the contract allegedly prepared by Impsa.

Guess which version was signed? The Impsa version, of course.

The choice of the Impsa version over the Neda-approved contract was revealed under oath by Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga before a Senate investigation and is contained in the minutes of the investigation.

Does President Macapagal know what her subordinates at Napocor are doing to make a mockery of her high profile anti-corruption campaign? Now that she knows, will she endorse the documents to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission as fast as she did those against Education Secretary (and possible presidential rival) Raul Roco?

* * *

**Speaking of Roco, who was very much hurt by the quick endorsement of the complaints against him to the PAGC, before he was asked to explain or even notified, some Department of Education employees who filed the complaints said he was not such a bad guy after all.**

**Why did they want Roco out of the DepEd then?**

**Their reply: "We can't stand his loud-colored printed polo shirts."**

* * *

After Roco's resignation was announced the other day over radio and television, a neighbor came over to the house to lament the departure of a "good man" from the DepEd. "It's because he topped the presidential survey," he said. "Arroyo wants to eliminate him as a rival in 2004."

"The President fell into her own trap then," I said. "She gave Roco a perfect excuse to break away and run against her."

"It is now almost sure that he will run for President in 2004," he said.

"Will you vote for him?" I asked.

"No."

"Why not?"

"I can't stand his printed polo shirts."

## Big and small

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

I SAW Raul Roco at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater Tuesday night, hours after he resigned as education secretary. He was enjoying himself. He was watching "Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Lactaw," a zarzuela by Bienvenido Lumbera and Lucien Letaba, who wrote its libretto and music, respectively. The zarzuela tells the tale of a group of women who joined the Katipunan to resist the American Occupation. Indeed, it tells the tale of a country laid low by greed and ambition and opportunism and the women—and men—who strove heroically to fight it.

When Roco left at the end of the play, the audience gave him a standing ovation. That was quite a sophisticated audience, they knew a good play when they saw one.

Roco had given his reasons for resigning earlier that day. The President had routinely ignored the charges that were hurled at him more than a year ago. Why she would suddenly discover merit in them, only she could say. He himself thought there was no room in a democracy for publicly humiliating people, least of all the members of her official family.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye would later say it was par for the course. The President had routinely coursed graft complaints against public officials to Dario Rama, the anti-graft commissioner. The same thing happened to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit. He did not say why the President put liner notes on Roco's case, suggesting that Rama devote special attention to it. He did not also say why Rama proclaimed on radio that per the President's instructions on Aug. 1, he was applying himself to that task.

I've since heard comments that Roco was being onion-skinned to resign over something so small as this. But it is more a reflection on the deterioration of our values than on the inordinate sensitivity of some of our officials. It's saying, *"Tinawag lang na* corrupt, *nag*-resign *na."* Roco himself would say he was not a rich man, his good name was what he valued most. The President signifies that she has lost confidence in her secretary, decency demands that he not cling *kapit-tuko* to his position but resign. But decency seems to be a word that has depreciated more steeply than the peso.

From where I stand, Roco has in fact given us, like a true teacher, a very good lesson on the difference between big and small, the same lesson they give kids in nursery school. If I remember right, there's a song to that effect.

What is big is choosing honor over power. What is small is choosing power over everything else.

Alas, it isn't just small, it is also self-defeating. I was tempted to say that with Roco's resignation, GMA's last visible connection to Edsa II has disappeared: Teofisto Guingona and Roco were two of its stoutest pillars, who became executive officials. But since that means nothing to the President, I should rather say that with Roco's resignation, GMA's capacity to make alliances has become shaky. One pro-administration senator, whom I will not name lest he suffer too from presidential retribution, gave me an insight into this. After Guingona, he said, everyone has gotten a little wary of the President. If she could do that to Guingona, after what he did for her, she can do that to any friend or ally. Well, if she can do this to Roco, after what he has done for her, she can do it to anyone.

What is big is doing your job quietly and efficiently. What is small is bungling your job loudly and clumsily.

Roco used a whole bunch of proverbs, including Buddhist ones, to explain his side. But there is one proverb that fits it more than others, and that is, "The taste of the pudding is in the eating." He has no need to refute the graft charges against him; his record at the Department of Education speaks for itself. In one year, he has turned the DepEd from one of the most shady and inept government offices, which it was in Andrew Gonzalez's time, the fellow never summoning the nerve to stand up to Erap, into a model department. He has slashed textbook prices (one of them from P130 to P40), restored P3,000 of the teachers' pay that was being deducted from them and stopped all sorts of scams. I myself knew he was doing his job from all the grumblings at the central office. If he had been well-loved there, he would only have been doing a lot of "*pakikisama*."

Contrast that with the record of the one person GMA singled out in her first Sona speech, Rene Bañez, who has done a worse job in the BIR than his predecessors. He is not being pilloried for this, he is not being eased out because of this, he is not being questioned for graft for this. GMA has even come out to defend him, buying his explanation that the burden of the past has made collections hard. Roco had a heavier burden of the past laid upon him, and he did wonders for the DepEd. And he is being pilloried for this, he has been eased out because of this, he is being questioned for graft for this.

While at this, what is small too is the complaints of the employees at Pasig about the way Roco treated them and their rejoicing at his resignation. They seem to have forgotten that the education secretary does not exist to serve them. He exists to serve the huge population of impoverished public school teachers who teach, the bigger population of more impoverished kids who study, and the even bigger population of even more impoverished parents who send them to school. Indeed, they seem to have forgotten that that is what they exist for: to serve the public and not themselves. Who cares how they are treated? What we do care about is how they treat the world. But that is the truly unfortunate thing about Roco's resignation: the parents lose, the worms win.

What is big is watching plays like "Victoria Lactaw" after willingly relinquishing a post well earned to improve your mind. What is small is playing watchdog while desperately clinging to a post unearned to improve your ratings.

You've had your lesson, class. Feel free to supply your own examples of what is big, and what is, well, very, very small.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vaisa.com*

# Roco found the road, courtesy of Malacañang

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

### Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MALACAÑANG has tried to pass off as "routine" and "purely ministerial" the referral to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) of the charges filed by Department of Education employees against Secretary Raul Roco. In fact PAGC Chair Dario Rama has been busy explaining that three other Cabinet members—former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez—and two undersecretaries have been investigated by the PAGC. Besides, Rama noted, all that the President wrote on the margin of the DepEd employees' complaint were the words "PAGC" and "Rama."

* * *

**Pundits are making a big thing of the fact that the complaint against Roco was referred to the PAGC on Aug. 1, the same day a survey came out putting Roco on top of the list of possible presidential candidates in 2004. The referral might have indeed been done without malice, but it's clear that this case shouldn't have been treated as "routine" because of the political complications. In fact, the common perception is that the go-signal to investigate him was part of a demolition job against him, to knock him out before 2004. Thus, even if the PAGC chair gets hoarse explaining the "routine" nature of the referral, few people are likely to believe it.**

* * *

The Roco episode is unfortunate because it could have been avoided had President Macapagal-Arroyo bothered to talk to him first before sending that complaint to the PAGC and making Rama announce the investigation. As Roco put it in his letter of resignation, "It would have been so simple for Your Excellency or the Executive Secretary to ask me to explain as a member of your official family." Alas, such courtesy was not extended. The "routine" treatment of Roco's case was also in marked contrast with GMA's spirited defense of officials perceived to have committed some wrongdoing, notably, Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and even Finance Secretary Lito Camacho.

As in the case of Vice President Teofisto Guingona, whose resignation was announced prematurely, there appears to be a communication problem between the President and those serving her. Effective communication with her subordinates doesn't seem to be among the talents of our superwoman President. But this is what gives the Palace a human element. What's also clear is the lack of political sense of her advisers, most of whom are technocrats who have never been elected even as *kagawad*.

* * *

**As I wrote this column, the meeting sought by GMA with Roco, in a bid to make him reconsider his resignation, was still to take place, although pundits are not optimistic that he will stay. It's ironic that Roco had to invoke the "point of honor" since this was the same issue then Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez raised when he resigned as foreign secretary under GMA's father, President Diosdado Macapagal, to seek the nomination of the Nacionalista Party in the 1974 convention, where he was defeated by Ferdinand Marcos. Pelaez campaigned on the issue that Cong Dadong "borrowed my honor."**

* * *

One obvious result of the imbroglio was that it gave Roco the casus belli he might have been looking for in order to break away from GMA and chart his own course for 2004. With his strong showing in the presidential elections of 1998 despite the lack of machinery and funds, and his consistent high ratings since joining this administration, it was easy to see Roco breaking away from GMA at a certain point to carve his own destiny.

After the concert sponsored by Kilosbayan/Bantay Katarungan last Aug. 6, where he gave the "modern-day hero" award to Camarines Sur public school teacher Marilyn Bien-Bongiad, Roco recalled to me how he responded to the media when he was asked about the recent survey putting him ahead of the President and Joseph Estrada. Said Roco: "I told them that the survey results serve simply as the road map. I still have to find the road." Last Tuesday, he could have found the road, courtesy of the Palace.

* * *

**In these hard times, it looks like suicide for anyone to venture into a new business. Thus, I like to give special encouragement to friends who put up businesses on pure *lakas-loob*. But in *balikbayan* hairdresser Deo B. Cumarat's case, it wasn't all *lakas-loob* that made him use up all his savings abroad to set up his own hair salon, Deo BC, in the heart of Makati seven months ago. Deo BC combines *lakas-loob* with enormous talent and the training and discipline he acquired during his seven-year stint with French and English hair stylists in Abu Dhabi and France. Though Deo started as a handyman around the salon in Abu Dhabi's Hotel Dana in December 1999, he eventually got to cut children's and walk-in clients' hair. The way he handled the scissors caught the attention of the French stylists and soon he was off to big hair jobs with celebrity and royalty at Hair Talk Ladies' Salon at the Novotel in Abu Dhabi. Ultimately he got to own his own shop, which he gave up after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks caused the expatriate community there to shrink. That was when he felt it was time to go home.**

**What's good about Deo BC is that he appreciates all the lessons in his life and career, from his humble beginnings as a hairdresser in Aparri, Cagayan, through his stint in Manila with Salon de Manila and with Cecile Guidote-Alvarez's Balintataw production, to his successful foreign ventures. Now he wants to start a school where he can teach and train young people in the craft so that they can also be on their own one day. Visit Deo BC for a hair treatment at Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Tel. No. 817-6585.**

# Love, politics and showbiz

## AT LARGE

### Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT a histrionic people we are! Nothing is ever done on an even keel. Everything—from politics to showbiz—is conducted several notches above hysteria. As if life were not complicated and melodramatic enough, Filipinos have to conduct affairs of state and affairs of the heart at full volume and with all gaskets going. I wonder—could we perhaps be the high-blood capital of the world?

A document alleging wrongdoing at the Department of Education lands on the President's desk. "As a matter of routine," so the Palace explains, President GMA scribbles where the papers should go, to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission headed by Dario Rama. Either the members of the Malacañang press corps get hold of the document, or it is leaked to them. Whatever, the President's "scribble," now blown-up into a "marginal note" and even an "endorsement," is linked to the fact that weeks ago, Education Secretary Raul Roco emerged as "the man to beat" in a survey on "presidentiables." Editors smell "political motive" and angle their stories thus. Roco then obliges them by handing in his resignation.

In his letter, Roco berated, in a manner of speaking, the President and Executive Secretary Bert Romulo for "humiliating" him and not even having the decency to call him up first and tell him personally about the complaint. But by reacting so swiftly to the news, Roco apparently also neglected to call up Malacañang himself, to ask what message the President was sending by writing "CAGC—Rama" on the papers.

The "note" could indeed have been the President's passive-aggressive way of signaling a demolition job on Roco. Or it could have been just another routine routing instruction for a document in the President's towering "in" file. I have a feeling the matter could have been settled by a few discreet phone calls. Instead, what we're now getting is an extended political melodrama, replete with intrigue and suspense. Will Raul walk out on Gloria? Or will they have a tearful reconciliation? *Abangan*!

* * *

**I FIRST met Rep. Jules Ledesma about three years ago when we invited him, in his capacity as then chair of the House committee on labor, to a round-table discussion on the anti-sexual harassment law. He struck me as a conscientious and diligent legislator. He spoke little but when he did open his mouth, he contributed sensible and substantial inputs.**

**Friends in business and the media likewise attest to his industry and intelligence. He helped shepherd the power reform bill through the House with quiet efficiency, even if at that time he was also nursing his late wife through her bout with cancer.**

**So when his name first surfaced in the entertainment press as an ardent suitor of Assunta de Rossi, the emerging sexual fantasy figure of Pinoy males, it was difficult to reconcile his persona as a legislator with what his detractors were saying about him. That he looked "too gay" or effeminate to be credible as a bold actress' lover. That he was simply too old for her, or too short, or too wealthy. That he was only "using" the young Assunta for a senatorial run in 2004.**

**My sympathies were basically for him, until he began popping up in celebrity talk shows and showbiz news segments. Who was this guy? I hardly recognized him. He had highlights in his hair and spoke in an animated, hyper manner, eyebrows dancing and eyes flitting about. I knew what had happened. Jules Ledesma had gone showbiz.**

**Now he talks about holding his wedding to his young actress-girlfriend in the Plenary Hall of the Batasan (thankfully, that was doused promptly by the House leadership). He's started to call himself "Shakespeare in Love," dedicating a poem to Assunta. And he has no qualms about kissing Assunta full on the lips (and asking for an encore) for all the world to see (and tape).**

**Every House committee hearing these days opens with an update on the Jules-Assunta affair. What love and celebrity have wrought, indeed. We have lost a competent, hard-working and well-meaning legislator and in his place is this fast-talking rich guy with a penchant for melodramatic declarations and public displays of affection. He has also hired a publicist.**

* * *

BY FAR the most sensational of the crop of sensational stories these days has to be the latest hot segment in the ongoing saga of Kris Aquino's ill-fated search for a good man to love.

You couldn't get more soap opera than the scene that unfolded Friday morning at the Asian Hospital. Incensed wife rushing to confront estranged husband's inamorata, with matching cheesy dialogue straight out of a '50s movie like "*Ako ang may karapatan dito, kabit ka lang at mananatili kang kabit* (I have the right to be here, you're just a mistress and will forever remain a mistress)!"

In the good old days when mistresses knew their place, the script would have had the girlfriend slinking out and sacrificing love for propriety. But trust Kris Aquino to change the rules of the soap opera. Far from hanging her head in shame, she confronted the ugly talk on her own showbiz talk show, saying she accepted all the put-downs in silence, and deflecting potential criticism by admitting that, yes, by her actions, she has brought shame to her clan.

Most of the time, one wants to take Kris by her shoulders and shake her till she gets some sense into her head. But one has got to give her credit for guts and honesty. While she's in the States, thinking things over, one wishes her wisdom, clarity and peace, the better to sort out her life away from the relentless glare of celebrity. Whatever we say about the main character, the story line has got us hooked.

# Judge, bishop uphold gold dust 'stealers'

## HUMAN FACE

### Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HOW I wish a film will be made to show the intricate way gold dust can be scraped and stolen from electronic parts. Like "Mission Impossible" with all those wire-cutting, clock-ticking, tape-burning scenes. Cinematic but not impossible though.

This time, I hope President Macapagal-Arroyo, concerned that foreign investors might move to Thailand, will not castigate Judge Lerio Castigador, like she did another judge, for ruling in favor of Filipino workers. The cards are heavily stacked against the 26 dismissed workers.

Church officials of the Imus (Cavite) Diocese have given full support to the 26 beleaguered workers of the Sanno Phils. Manufacturing Corp. firm, who became victims of trumped-up charges of qualified theft of gold dust. Invoking the judge's decision and "the Popes of the past centuries" who "recognized and safeguarded the rights of workers," Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle is appealing to Sanao Hoshino, the president of the Japanese corporation, to heed the workers' cry for reinstatement. (Bishop Tagle is the popular former "Father Chito," who headed the Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol Formation Center in Tagaytay.)

Last June 25, Judge Castigador of the General Trias Municipal Trial Court cleared the accused, citing insufficient evidence, and even noting that Sanno (the complainant) "has shown the motive of filing the complaint which is supposedly to bust the union by harassing union members and sympathizers." Socked it to them.

Sanno remains unmoved. Last July 28, Sanno terminated the services of the 26 workers without due process.

Recently, workers and their sympathizers held a three-day vigil in front of the Gateway Business Park (GBP) in General Trias. The vigil was a campaign for the reinstatement of the Sanno 26. Gateway is a private economic zone haven for multinationals that produce electronics and semi-conductors while enjoying tax-free incentives and assurances that they are in a "no-strike zone."

Samasa (Sanno Phils. workers' union) says the case against the 26 workers was really a union-busting scheme. Shortly after the union was formed last year, Sanno's former president talked to union officers to stop their union activities inside the company. The latter said it was their right.

The union filed for a certification election (which has yet to be held) even as a number of Samasa members were lured to the management side. Samasa protested silently by wearing T-shirts saying, "No to Union Busting."

On June 13, Sanno filed charges of qualified theft against 26 workers, 11 of whom were women. Twenty-two were arrested. Nine, the principal accused, were not granted bail. Two remained at large.

I read the judge's resolution and also what the "qualified theft" charges were all about. What exactly were supposedly stolen?

Dust. Gold dust. So, how exactly? The resolution summarized Sanno's charges and the prosecution witnesses' accounts. Stealing gold dust worth P500,000 is indeed quite an intricate thing to do, at least that was the way I understood it from the prosecution. Sanno, by the way, is a subcontractor of gold plating of electrical conductors.

Here's one way to steal gold dust: "(Accused) made anode screen to which the gold adhered from machine and where the gold solution passed through... After, the plating gold was taken out in the appearance of biscuit cracker and others as powder which they placed (them) in their wallets and could be mistaken as coin..."

Another way: "The theft was done by plating these illegal connections at the plating line where gold adhered to the plate installed by said persons..."

The stolen gold was supposed to have been sold in jewelry stores in China Town in Manila and Silang, Cavite.

The accused countered by showing how difficult and dangerous stealing gold dust was. There were supervisors around, the accused said, and stealing gold that way was life-threatening because they were not trained electricians. None of them were ever caught in possession of gold dust.

Castigador's ruling showed why there was insufficient evidence of theft and underlined the defendants' claim that the prosecution's aim was to harass union members who wanted a certification election.

I have not been to Gateway but I was at the Cavite Export Processing Zone two years ago and went around the place to interview the striking workers and made *usyoso* in the places where young women workers went home after their shift. Many of them did not have beds of their own, but slept on beds also by shifts. I remember going home burning with fever and, with bloodshot eyes, rushing the story in time for Labor Day. The story was not about beds. After the series came out, a Korean manager wrote to explain that their company had nothing to do with how these women lived or slept after their working hours.

The Imus Diocese Labor Apostolate Center said: "God sent us an opportunity to put into action the beautiful words of our diocesan vision and mission. We passed the test! Our voluntary contributions exceeded the amount needed to bail out from the General Trias jail the Sanno workers who had been accused of qualified theft, arrested, jailed... We were right in our decision for in a decision dated June 14, 2002, the Municipal Trial Court of General Trias dismissed the case against them."

Union-busting stories are so common but, I told the Workers Assistance Center in Cavite, I could always write another one. I thought, how to steal gold dust was really interesting.

* * *

*Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Like the wind

## YOUNG BLOOD

### Faith Anghel

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

JC and I have been friends for one year now. We have this special bond and unconventional friendship which make people raise their eyebrows. Our friendship is simply different. I will explain.

On July 7, we greeted each other, reminisced about our very first conversation, and sent each other cards. We have been doing something similar since we got acquainted with each other exactly a year ago that day. Now, how many people know the exact date when their friendship with someone began?

No, we don't have a romantic relationship—not yet, anyway. What we have is a special friendship. JC is different from all the other guys I know, and as I get to know him better, the more I admire him. I admire his intelligence, his humility, his outrageous humor, his genuine sincerity, his positive outlook in life, his loving relationship with his family and especially his strong faith. I have not met anyone like him really.

We've shared so many secrets about each other. He accepts me as I am. Yes, I can say that he makes me feel good about myself, about what I can do and who I am. Our relationship has reached the point when I am willing to share with him my deepest thoughts, the things that I haven't told anybody, even my family or my closest friends.

He may be very vocal about his thoughts about our friendship, too. But there were times when I couldn't believe what I was hearing from him. I couldn't believe that someone would actually, really care for me and that someone could look at me in such a very special way.

During one of our conversations, I told JC about two people I knew who ended their friendship. He asked me how I would have reacted if we ended the friendship that we had (knock on wood). We both agreed that we had a great friendship going right now, but he was wondering what if something similar happened to us. How would I react? he wanted know.

But how could he have asked me that question when he knew that I would feel sad if I lost him (an understatement)? But I couldn't bring myself to to tell him that. I'm just not like that. I don't want to show my emotions so clearly.

I ended up giving him this very long answer to his short question:

Someone told me that he was so sure that I did not like the movie, "A Walk to Remember," because Jamie, the lead character, died. I told him I had changed. I said that I liked the movie because even though Jamie died, and her boyfriend was left all alone, at least at one point in their lives, they were able to meet and be happy, and that was what mattered most.

Have you read the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, "The Little Prince"? I was in third grade when I first read it. This book might have influenced my attitude toward love—or in the author's words, "to tame or be tamed," meaning, to establish ties, spend time with another, and share yourself.

Earlier, I think I told you that the reason I did not like to have pets was that I didn't want to get hurt by caring for them and learning to love them only to eventually see them die. It sounds weird and even pathetic, I know, but this was something I believed in up to the time I was in college. (This was probably one of the reasons I didn't develop intimate relationships. This probably explains why I haven't had a boyfriend although I have had several suitors. Now I know.)

As an 8-year-old, what stuck in my small, innocent mind was that loving or simply being close to someone was like allowing myself to be hurt in the end, to feel pain and to cry. I can still remember that striking passage in the book: "One runs the risk of crying a bit if one allows oneself to be tamed."

I reread the book after I graduated from college. And I cried. I cried as if I was reading it for the first time. It became a more touching story for me since I understood it differently. (Every time I reread it, I still get some new insights.) This time I realized that what the book was saying was that it was good to love, or to tame and be tamed. It was more meaningful to become emotionally attached to another even though there's the chance that you would lose the one you tamed or the one who tamed you. It would all be worth the risk. The experiences that you had with the other would be appreciated and remembered together with the things that remind you of that person. To have met someone so unique, someone who changed you and touched your life in such a special way was what matters.

What really matters? What is essential? In the book, it was a fox who revealed the secret: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." What is essential is that which you can feel. It may be, according to Jamie, "beauty, joy, love"—and may I add friendship. The fox's words was stated more simply by Jamie: "It's like the wind. I can't see it but I feel it..."

JC, even if we parted ways and we don't see each other, what matters to me is what has been in my mind, in my heart and in my memory. My life will never be the same because of you, because you have made me a better person.

For the Little Prince, the rose which he has tamed and which has tamed him will not be like the other roses which may be beautiful and yet empty. That rose is special because it is his rose.

To me, you will not be like any of the millions of other Net users because you are my special friend. If we ever end what we have, I will miss you terribly but I will still cherish the thought of our friendship and try to remember the feelings that you were able to make me feel. We may never be together after that, but you will always stay with me. You may be out of sight but I will still feel you. I will feel the best friend that I have in you through the wonderful memories that I will keep in my heart and the memory that will make me smile once in a while.

Yes, our unconventional and unique, yet special, friendship (and everything that comes and may come with it) may end, but to me, it will always be like the wind."

*Faith Anghel, 20, "met" her special friend JC, a pure Filipino who grew up in the United States, through the Internet. He plans to visit the Philippines late this year, and so they will finally see each other and hopefully spend Christmas and New Year together.*

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# Time for taxpayers' revolt?

WE have just gone through barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections which added more to our financial woes since they cost the government about P500 million.

Why do we maintain a layer of government that performs no real purpose since no one is even sure what it really does?

Real estate taxes, which have increased astronomically, finance the allocations to the barangay. People with fixed incomes, particularly retirees, are hard pressed to pay huge increases in taxes. We pay more taxes when we are not getting any new services from the government. We have no new roads, criminality is on the rise and squatters proliferate even near city hall. Garbage bags are dumped in ditches and canals, clogging our drainage systems. Some people who go to city hall say there are more employees than there are desks. Is city hall an employment agency?

Neighboring countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have 12-lane superhighways even in the countryside. We used to have trains from Tutuban on to La Union and to the Bicol provinces. Now the trains have been replaced by squatters.

Instead of building more roads to decongest the urban areas, our politicians have this passion for changing street names.

On a lighter note, however I am reminded of a joke about an American leader asking the Lord, "When can I straighten our economy?" The Lord replied, "Not in your lifetime." The Russian leader asked, "When can I unite all Soviet republics?" "Not in your lifetime" the Lord answered. The Filipino leader asked, "When can I solve our traffic problems?" The Lord answered, "Not in my lifetime."

Perhaps we should mount a taxpayers' revolt to demand more roads to be built. It is not true that some senators have been kidnapped and taxpayers want the Pasay cops to rescue them.

—P.N. BELTRAN,
11 Bulletin St.,
Quezon City

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# Quick action by Sta. Mesa police

I WOULD like to relate my traumatic experience on July 16.

I was walking in the street in broad daylight (around 11 a.m.) when three men attacked me from behind. One man placed his hand around my neck, holding me down, while the two other men grabbed my bag. I was struggling but they were just too strong.

Two men saw what happened to me and got down from their car to help, but the robbers had already gotten away.

Instead of just letting them go and feeling helpless, I tried to follow them. I asked the people around if they saw where the men went and if they knew them. I was happy when a woman gave the names as well as the addresses of the robbers.

After that, I went to the Sta. Mesa Police Station 8 to file charges against the robbers. I thought that that was the end of it and the case would get nowhere. But the policemen under Supt. Frumento Villareal and led by SPO2 Vicente Noriega, PO2 Arvin Tatco, SPO1 Vergel Romero and Inspector Bonzagalez Jr. proved me wrong.

After a few hours they caught one of the thieves. A little later on, my bag was recovered by the barangay people. My money was missing along with some other stuff, but the documents I needed were still there.

After a few more hours, the man who got my cell phone was caught and the policemen were able to recover my phone. He was the one who had tried to strangle me and pin me down. His arrest really made me feel better.

I was feeling weak because of the bruises and shock I sustained in the attack. The policemen brought me to the hospital to get a medical certificate and have my bruises attended to. I was at the precinct until 5:30 p.m.

The following day, the policemen brought the robbers to the fiscal for inquest. Bail was set at P100,000 for each of them.

I am really grateful for the speedy action of the policemen. My trust in the police was restored fully.

One man remains at large. I hope that the police will continue looking for this criminal.

—MICHELLE,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

# More of less

**PINOY KASI**

**Michael L. Tan**

FOR A CHANGE, I'm going to plug an announcement at the beginning, rather than at the end, of my column. The Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) is calling for nominations for its Sampung Ulirang Nakatatanda awards. COSE says the awards are being given to people over 60 years of age who have spent a lifetime at the service of others. Preference is given to "unsung heroes" such as the "less known farmers, urban poor, tribal communities, handicapped and leaders of women's groups."

The deadline for applications is Aug. 31, 2002. Send them to: 14-C Manhattan St., Cubao, Quezon City or cose@pacific.net.ph or call 410-4373.

My readers know I very rarely publicize awards but COSE's are different, with its emphasis on the "unsung heroes." The COSE awards also got me to do some thinking about the "growing old" process. Bear with a bit of this midlife rambling.

A few months back, I was talking with Sr. Mayang Grenough, a Maryknoll sister, about living with our elderly. Mayang volunteered this interesting bit of information: "You'll find there's a 'more of' syndrome here."

More of? She laughed and explained that as a person becomes older, you'll find he or she has "more of" whatever their younger personality and character were. So, the ones who were pleasant and cheerful in their younger years become even more pleasant and cheerful as they grow older. Sadly, the converse also seems true.

I sort of agree with Mayang. There seems to be a basic personality that develops fairly early in life, and which becomes "more of" as the years go by. Is this biological? I don't think so, at least not in the strict sense of that word. I think much of our personalities takes on a "habitual" mode. If you're pleasant when you're young, then it becomes difficult trying to take on another face.

I should know. Now that I'm middle-aged and in an administrative position, people actually goad me, "Get tough. Learn to be mean, learn to be *mataray*, learn to get back." But I know I just can't. It's not me to do that, mainly because I refuse to stoop to the level of low life. (Okay, okay, so the young snob is now a middle-aged snob.)

I guess, too, that if you've been rather dour and pessimistic most of your life, it just becomes too difficult later in life to take a more pleasant countenance. If you're lucky, people will tolerate that and just say it's part of being old and "crusty." More often though, and this is the sad part, young people just drift away from older relatives who become more and more negative about life.

But is this process truly irreversible? I think it depends, to some extent, on what society says. Sadly, in many Asian societies the "respect" that's required for the elderly means we keep quiet even when they're so obviously mean and unpleasant and wrong. With less and less feedback, especially for people in positions of authority, the elderly's self-image becomes totally out of sync with reality.

Many of my middle-aged friends are quite conscious about this risk of losing touch with reality. Neither senior nor junior, we're at that stage where we need to evaluate where we are. Are we "respected" by young people because of fear? Do the young play games, currying to our vanities and self-deceits because they know the patronage system continues to dominate? Do we allow ourselves to be deceived by the sycophancy? Might we end up being "praise junkies," people who just can't have enough of adulation?

Humanist psychologists talk about how, in midlife, we need to come to terms with life. Our circle of friends becomes smaller as we emphasize intimacy rather than public recognition. We find joy not in the applause of large crowds but in the laughter of children and grandchildren. A few close friends become more important, a *barkada* marked by frank, maybe even brutal talk. My best friends are always reminding me, "Hey, when we're old and on our rocking chairs, remember to kick me if I get too grouchy and demanding."

Sadly, because so many Filipinos (and Asians) do become "praise junkies," old age can become bitter as the demand for recognition becomes insatiable. The insecurities produce more territoriality and turfing in offices and at home. You might get some of that insincere flattery, but once your back is turned, you'll probably also be the butt of ridicule. "*Tanda*" becomes a pejorative term, spat out in scorn.

It should be worthwhile exploring alternatives, a "less of" attitude to life. Many years ago my Dutch academic adviser, Sjaak van der Geest, took me to a home for the elderly. At the end of the visit, as we walked to the parking lot, he reminded me, "We can't take anything with us when we go. So before we die, we should just give away as much as possible." Through the years, I've come to understand it's not just having less of material goods, but also of praise and compliments.

The COSE awardees might actually show us a way to combine both the "more of" and the "less of" options. Older people who serve others don't start doing service just because they're retired and have nothing to do. Quite often, they're continuing what they did when they were younger, old age simply giving them more time to give more of themselves.

It means having "less of" time for themselves but ultimately, people who serve get to see the best that life and the world can offer. In doing so, people uncover something philosophers have pointed out time and time again: when one lives to the fullest, there's no such thing as a premature departure from this life.

* * *

*Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net*

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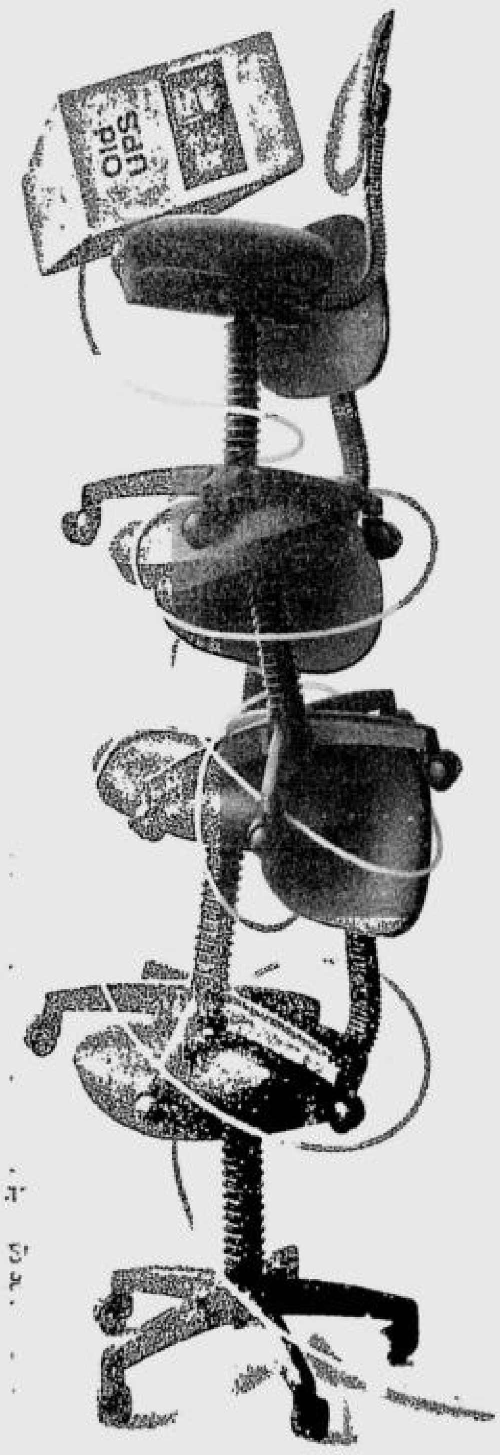

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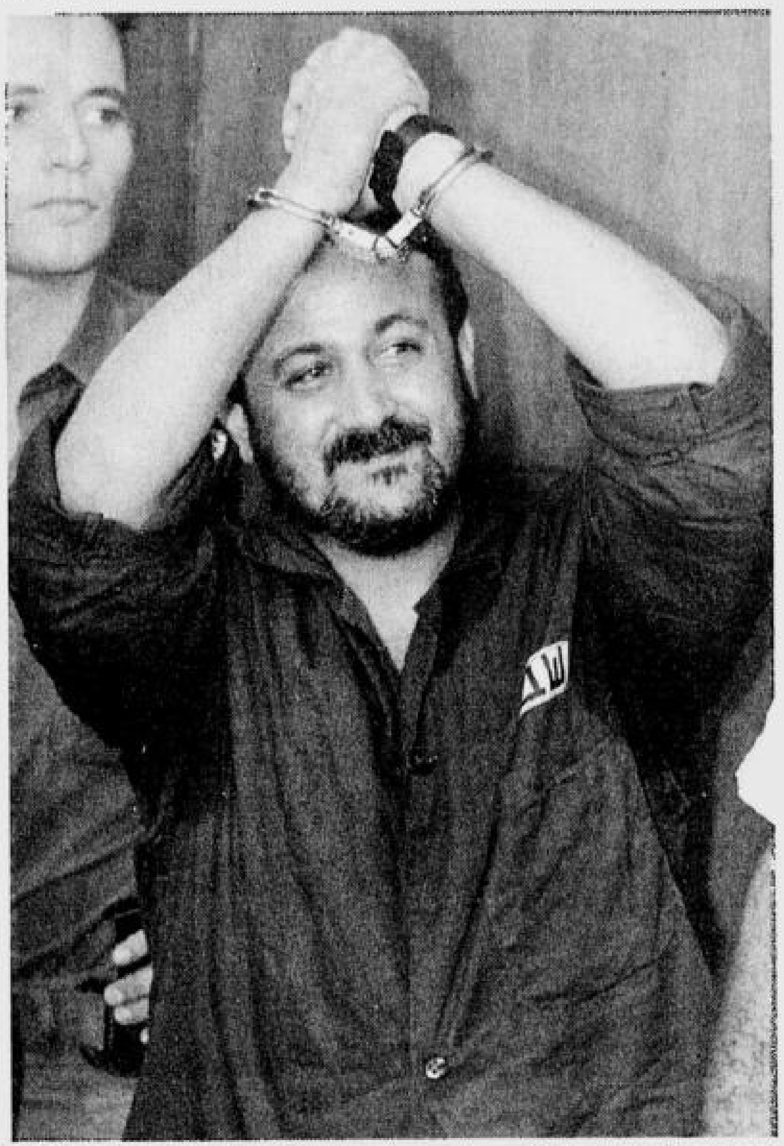
# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



MARWAN Barghouthi, 43, general secretary of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, shows his cuffed hands as he enters the Tel Aviv's city court on August 14. REUTERS

## Israel opens high-profile trial of Palestinian leader

**TEL AVIV—Israel launched the most high-profile trial of the Palestinian intifada Wednesday, formally charging Marwan Barghuti, the West Bank leader of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, with murder and terrorism.**

Barghuti, 43, appeared handcuffed and flanked by police in a Tel Aviv court, making a brief, impassioned statement to reporters before heading in to hear charges that he headed the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed Fatah offshoot behind scores of deadly attacks.

"Everybody in the world knows that Marwan Barghuti is fighting for peace. I am a peace man," he said in English.

Israel, which captured him in a Ramallah invasion in April, has linked him to the deaths of dozens of Israelis and the wounding of hundreds more. If found guilty, he faces life behind bars.

"I was trying to do everything for peace between the two people," Barghuti insisted. "I do believe that the best solution for the two people is two states . . . there's no other solution." Barghuti's lawyer, Khadr Shkueirat told the court his client, who is a Palestinian lawmaker as well as being Fatah's secretary general in the West Bank, refused to recognize the tribunal's legitimacy in trying him.

He also demanded that he be presented with the evidence against his client.

Judge Zvi Gorfinkel ordered the court into recess until September 5 after the prosecution formally read the charges against Barghuti, including various counts of murder and belonging to a terrorist organization.

The judge ordered Barghuti be held until the end of the trial.

Shkueirat also presented a list of what he called indictments against Israel, but Gorfinkel waved them down, saying it was not the time for such charges.

The gesture highlighted the risks of the trial for Israel, with some commentators saying Barghuti could use it as a public platform to attack Israel's occupation and its heavy-handed military tactics.

But other analysts say that by bringing Barghuti to public trial, Israel aims to show the involvement of the Palestinian leader in terrorist activities.

Israel has brought several suspected militants to court in recent months, but Barghuti's trial is the most prominent case to come to trial yet.

Before being captured, Barghuti was number one on Israel's most wanted list, but was also an icon of the Palestinian uprising that erupted in September 2000 against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Barghuti has himself denied being the founder of the group but regularly hailed its operations. He refused to cooperate during his three months of interrogation, claiming the status of a political prisoner. *AFP*

## Koreas agree to re-link border rails

SEOUL—North and South Korea agreed to take measures to relink border railways but could not agree a date for crucial military talks, according to an official statement released Wednesday.

The two sides also agreed to hold reunions of families divided since the 1950-53 Korean War and economic talks in September and a new round of high level talks in October in Pyongyang.

"The South and the North will take military measures necessary to restore the railways and road links and hold military talks (on the railways) at the earliest possible date," said the communique.

Reconnecting the transport links was one of the key agreements made after a June 2000 summit between the leaders of the North and South but which has never been completed.

But the 10-point statement issued after long delays and intense behind the scenes negotiations made no mention of general talks on easing military tensions which the South had strongly pressed for.

Among other measures agreed taekwondo teams from the two sides will make reciprocal visits in September and October and a North Korean economic delegation will visit the South in October. *AFP*

## Iraq urges US Congress anew to send team to Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Iraq on Wednesday renewed its call for the US Congress to accept its invitation to send a fact-finding team to Baghdad to check if Iraqi authorities are developing weapons of mass destruction.

"What does the US Congress have to lose if it accepts the invitation from the Iraqi parliament and forms a delegation accompanied by a team of experts to visit the sites where their administration claims that Iraq is hiding or producing weapons of mass destruction?" asked the ruling Baath party daily Ath-Thawra.

"Would it not be appropriate for Congress to take advantage of this opportunity offered by the Iraqi parliament to check these accusations on the ground, for the sake of US national security and to avoid America launching itself into an adventure that even its allies dub illegal and immoral?"

Ath-Thawra stressed that those members of Congress who accept a visit to Iraq "will not be brainwashed." Iraq's parliament first extended the offer on August 5, instantly being snubbed by the White House, before renewing its offer two days later.

Baghdad's offer coincided with repeated threats by the Bush administration it was planning to launch a military campaign to oust Saddam Hussein's regime, which it accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction. *AFP*

## Musharraf: Attackers of Christians arrested

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani police have arrested some 15 Islamic militants implicated in a chain of "despicable terrorist" attacks on Christians and Westerners, President Pervez Musharraf announced Wednesday.

"Just before entering the hall the interior minister told me that there were about 15 terrorists who were involved in terrorist acts and planning more such incidents," Musharraf said at a ceremony to mark Pakistan's Independence Day.

"All of them have been arrested now while others were killed." The government on Monday blamed a faction of the outlawed Lashar-i-Jhangvi network of Islamic militants for the latest two attacks on Christians last week, which brought the death toll from a total of eight attacks in less than a year on Christian and Western targets to 59.

Six Pakistanis were killed when masked gunmen stormed the Murree Christian School for the children of Western aid workers northeast of Islamabad on August 5.

Last Friday four Pakistani nurses were killed in a grenade attack as they emerged from a morning prayer service in the chapel of the Taxila Christian Hospital. One of the attackers died from a suspected shrapnel wound.

Three of the Murree school attackers blew themselves up with grenades on Tuesday when they were cornered by police and villagers in hills further north of Murree, near the border with Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"The recent attacks on Christian brothers and sisters are the most shameful and despicable examples of terrorism," Musharraf said after hoisting the green and white national flag to mark the anniversary of the Islamic republic's 1947 foundation.

"All this (violence) was in the name of Islam. These misled criminals and terrorists and their tutors even have the audacity to think their actions are the route to paradise. *AFP*

PAKISTAN children sing at the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, father of the nation, to mark the 55th Independence Day in Karachi August 14. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf dismissed neighboring India's Kashmir election plans as a farce on Wednesday and vowed to crush Islamic militancy. REUTERS

## Convict saved by last-minute governor's call

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—At almost the last possible moment, Missouri Governor Bob Holden stayed the execution of convicted hit man Daniel Basile after an unidentified alibi witness stepped forward, according to a Department of Corrections spokesperson.

Basile late Tuesday was within minutes of being executed by lethal injection at the Potosi Correctional Center. His execution was scheduled for one minute after midnight.

The stay will allow state and federal courts to consider the new evidence, but the execution could still proceed at any time. Basile's death sentence has already been appealed and confirmed by those same courts.

In 1992, Basile was hired by Richard DeCaro to murder his wife Elizabeth. On March 6, DeCaro, who had recently purchased a $100,000 life insurance policy on his wife, picked up their four children and the family dog and drove them to a resort, leaving Elizabeth alone in the house.

Basile entered the house, forced Elizabeth DeCaro to her knees and shot her twice point blank in the back of the neck. Later that day Basile was seen driving the DeCaros' SUV. *AFP*

## Bhopal survivors remain committed to fight for justice

THE body of an unknown child, one of 22,000 people who died following an explosion at a pesticide plant on the night of December 2, 1984 which released lethal gases, is buried in Bhopal in this photo taken by Raghu Rai shortly after the explosion. REUTERS

**By Jay Shankar**

BANGALORE, India—After battling for 18 years, survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster in the Indian city of Bhopal say they will not give up their fight for justice although activists admit public interest in their plight is waning.

Champa Devi, 50, who lost her husband and two sons in the toxic gas leak from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in December 1984, vowed she would not rest until those responsible were arrested.

"Initially I never knew the battle would be so long," said Devi, who has come to the southern Indian city of Bangalore with other survivors to increase awareness about their situation.

"Those who died are lucky. My daughter is suffering from a stroke. Others have cancer, tuberculosis and acute breathing problems. Where do we get the money for treatment?" Devi said with tears in her eyes.

"What has the government been doing for 18 years? Our condition remains the same. All are waiting at the corridors of death with no money to pay for medicines. But even in this state I will not give up," she said.

An estimated 3,500 to 7,500 people were killed and more than half a million seriously injured when the gas leaked from the plant.

The former chief of Union Carbide, Warren Andersen, and eight other American executives have been charged in connection with the tragedy and the case is still continuing.

Union Carbide has since been acquired by Michigan-based Dow Chemicals.

Mohammad Basi, 24, said he had to stop his education after developing acute headaches.

"Doctors tell me now that I have to undergo an operation in my stomach within a week. My eyes still water and sometimes become sore," Basi said. "But I am not going to give up that easily. I will travel and tell everyone what Union Carbide has done to me."

Other survivors said no one was willing to marry the girls who had borne the brunt of the toxic gas.

"Most of the children who were born after the leak had smaller limbs, disproportionate heads and chest. When this started happening people refused to marry girls from Bhopal. They got scared," said Joythi Rajput.

A $715-million compensation payout from Union Carbide had been delayed by Indian bureaucracy and had not yet reached those affected by the leak, they said.

"We got about 15,000 rupees ($306) as one-off compensation. It wil not even suffice to have a cup of tea every day leave alone our medical bills," Devi said.

Friends of Bhopal, an umbrella group of social activists, environmental and human rights groups and Greenpeace, said public interest in the case was dissipating.

"It is hard to for such a campaign to last. Public interest has started decreasing. Still, we are doing our best to keep the issue alive," a spokesman for the Bangalore-based organisation said.

A Greenpeace official said non-governmental organisations would carry out a relay hunger strike next week to protest against a move by Indian investigators who have toned down the charges against the accused.

More than a dozen organisations will participate in the hunger strike in the cities of Bangalore, Bombay, Bhopal, Madras and New Delhi before the case next comes up for a hearing in a Bhopal court on August 27.

"From culpable homicide and criminal negligence (registered against Andersen and the others earlier in 1987) the charges against the accused have been diluted in May (this year) to a rash and negligent act," said Manu Gopalan, a spokesperson for Greenpeace.

"It will mean the accused can pay a fine and get off," Gopalan said.

If federal investigators succeed in diluting the charges, the survivors will not be able to demand the extradition of Andersen, who is in the United States.

India and the United States have an extradition treaty but unlike homicide, negligence is not covered under its provisions.

"This is the worst possible betrayal the survivors have ever seen," said Rajput, who was also

# Castro turns 76, calls self world's happiest man

HAVANA—Cuban President Fidel Castro turned 76 Tuesday, presiding over school openings and saluting newly minted doctors, defying the United States as he has almost every day for decades.

Castro who was born August 13, 1926, in Biran, eastern Cuba and has spent more than half his life in power, opted to spend the day on a lightning tour of schools being renovated.

In the afternoon, Castro led a ceremony capping the restoration of 200 schools, calling himself "the happiest man in the world," then rushed to another gathering to congratulate a phalanx of 4,000 new graduates of the island's medical schools.

"Today we have the conviction that there is no force in the world capable of destroying our dreams," Castro said at one ceremony, underscoring his view that the only communist-ruled country in the Americas still is on the right path.

CUBAN President Fidel Castro speaking at a Labor Day rally May 1, 2002. Castro turned 76 years old on August 13, 2002, apparently in good health and in full political control after 43 years in power. REUTERS

Dissidents for the first time won national public attention in May as former US president Jimmy Carter visited Cuba, submitting 11,000 signatures to the legislature asking for broad economic and electoral law reforms.

But it was swept aside last month as Castro flexed his control over the island and more than eight million people—almost every Cuban eligible to vote—voted to make the prevailing system "irrevocable" in the constitution.

Castro, a baseball fanatic and Jesuit-educated lawyer who came to power in 1959 aged 32, has been a perpetual thorn in the side of the United States, which was alarmed and embarrassed by Castro's establishment of a Cold War communist-bloc nation just 144 km off its southeast flank.

The Cuban president ushered in universal education and health care for Cubans, and equalized salaries across the island, while fixing the blame for hardship on the 40-year-old US economic embargo Washington hoped would foment rebellion against him.

In Washington the United States labeled Castro a "dinosaur" as he turned 76, and issued him a birthday challenge to renounce communism and embrace reform for the benefit of the Cuban people.

State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker suggested Castro take a close look at US President George W. Bush's initiatives for Cuba which promise an easing of sanctions against the island in exchange for broad democratic and market reforms.

"If the Cuban government takes these concrete steps toward democracy, President Bush will work with the United States Congress to ease the ban on trade and travel between the United States and Cuba," Reeker said.

"So there's a birthday challenge, dinosaurs notwithstanding, for Mr. Castro to once again step back and think about the future of his own people." AFP

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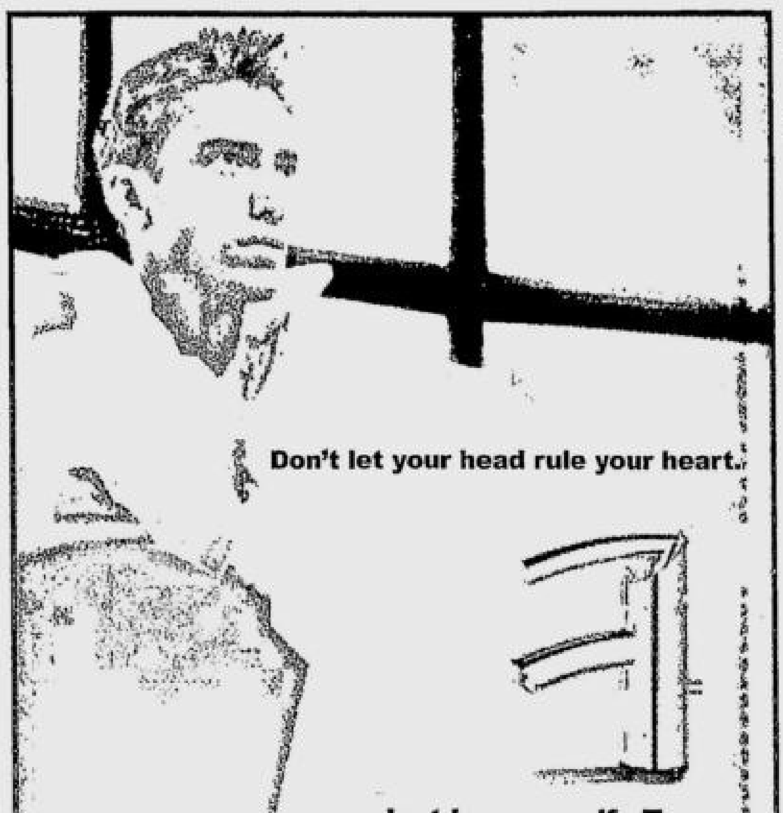

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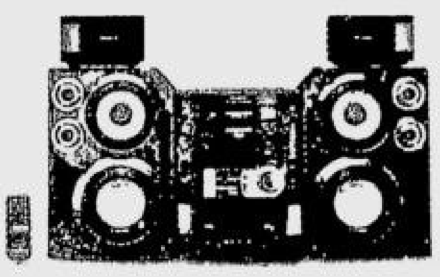


# Deaths rise from ferocious European weather

PRAGUE—Residents of flood-ravaged Prague were anxiously waiting for the swollen river Vltava to reach its peak on Wednesday, as the toll from ferocious European weather conditions from Russia to Germany rose to at least 88 dead.

Rescue workers fought a daunting battle Tuesday to stop floodwaters from further submerging the medieval central district of the Czech capital, where tens of thousands fled their homes in some of the worst flooding for a century.

Around 200,000 people have been evacuated across the Czech Republic since waters first began to rise last week in what has become the country's worst flooding in more than a century, Czech Interior Minister Stanislav Gross said.

In Germany, Dresden in the east was the hardest hit from the muddy waters, while bridges were swept away in Austria with half the country underwater and the river Danube cascading over its banks in Vienna.

In Germany the death toll rose to 11 as the floods caused by torrential rains continued to ravage the country's eastern and southern regions, authorities there said early Wednesday.

Five people were found dead in Saxony Tuesday, one of them in Dresden, bringing to eight the number killed since Saturday in the eastern state that has been the worst hit by the extreme weather, the regional interior ministry said.

At least 17,000 people were evacuated in the eastern German state of Saxony where the body of a 70-year-old man was recovered as mounting rivers left dozens stranded in their homes.

Helicopters and boats evacuated people from hospitals and schools in areas sealed off by the rising waters. A state of emergency was declared in seven districts of Bavaria.

The ferocious weather comes at the height of the European tourist season, with resorts and hoteliers since July already taking a severe hit from record rainfalls and freak storms across much of the European continent.

Medieval buildings and bridges in Prague were damaged and more than 1,000 years of art and history became potential flood victims. Two men, aged 52 and 76, drowned, bringing to nine the number of those killed in the Czech Republic.

City authorities provided emergency accomodation to 50,000 residents who were ordered to evacuate their homes. Many had earlier refused to leave, despite dire warnings that electricity, gas and drinking water supplies would be cut off.

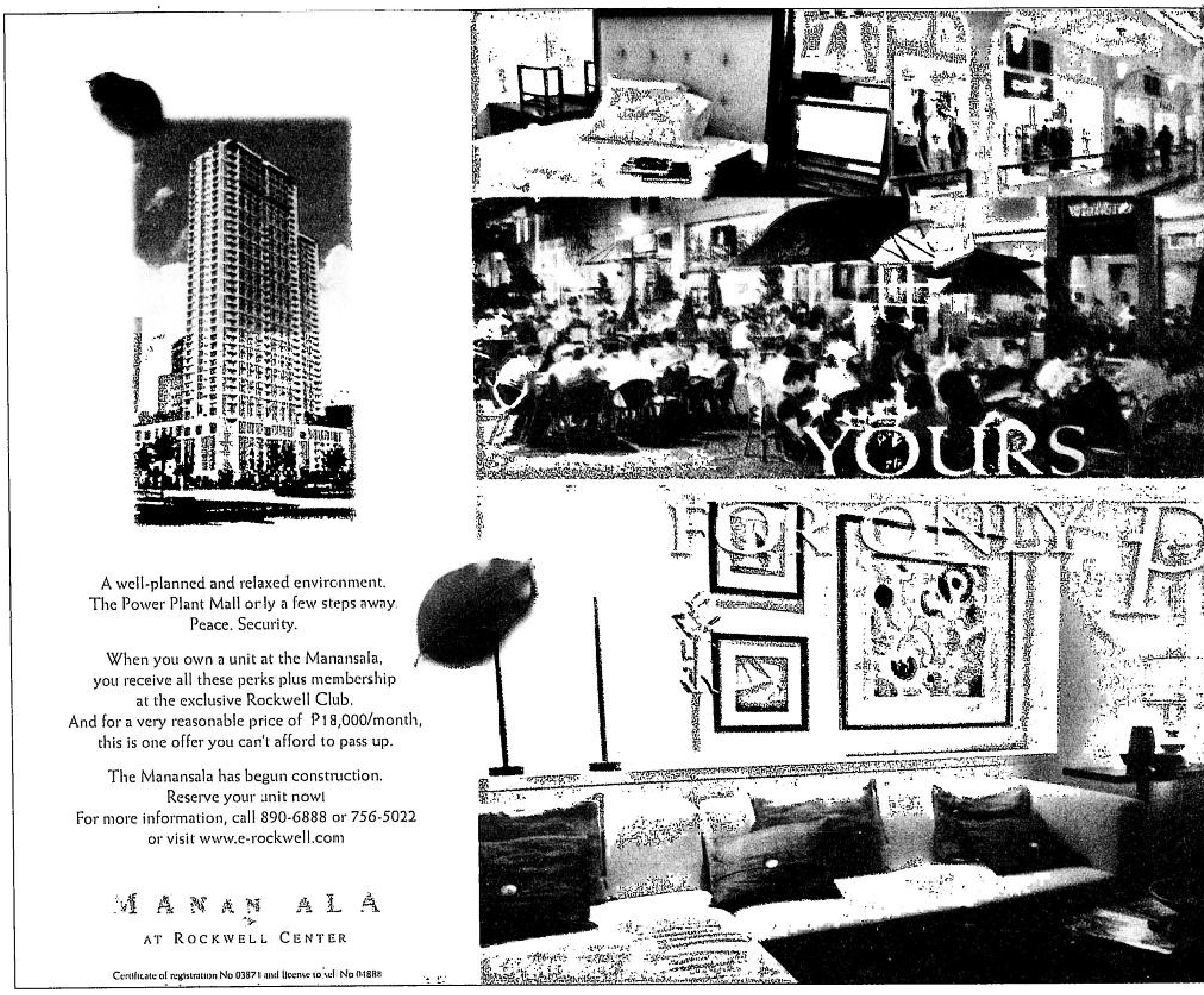
Motorized rafts and rowboats turned into frequent methods of transportation in the medieval section of the city center, Mala Strana, which was at risk as the river Vltava rose ever higher.

The river was expected to crest on Wednesday, though authorities earlier had said it was expected to reach its highest level—more than seven meters above normal—by Tuesday.

Around 15,000 firefighters, police, military and other rescue officials worked incessantly in the capital, home to 1.2 million people, and much of the western region of Bohemia to stave off disaster.

In Austria, where the death toll rose to seven, hydro-electric dams became massive waterfalls, whole towns flooded and animals drowned in the fields.

President Thomas Klestil said Tuesday that the floods, in terms of damage, were the worst the country has seen since the republic was founded in 1918. *AFP*



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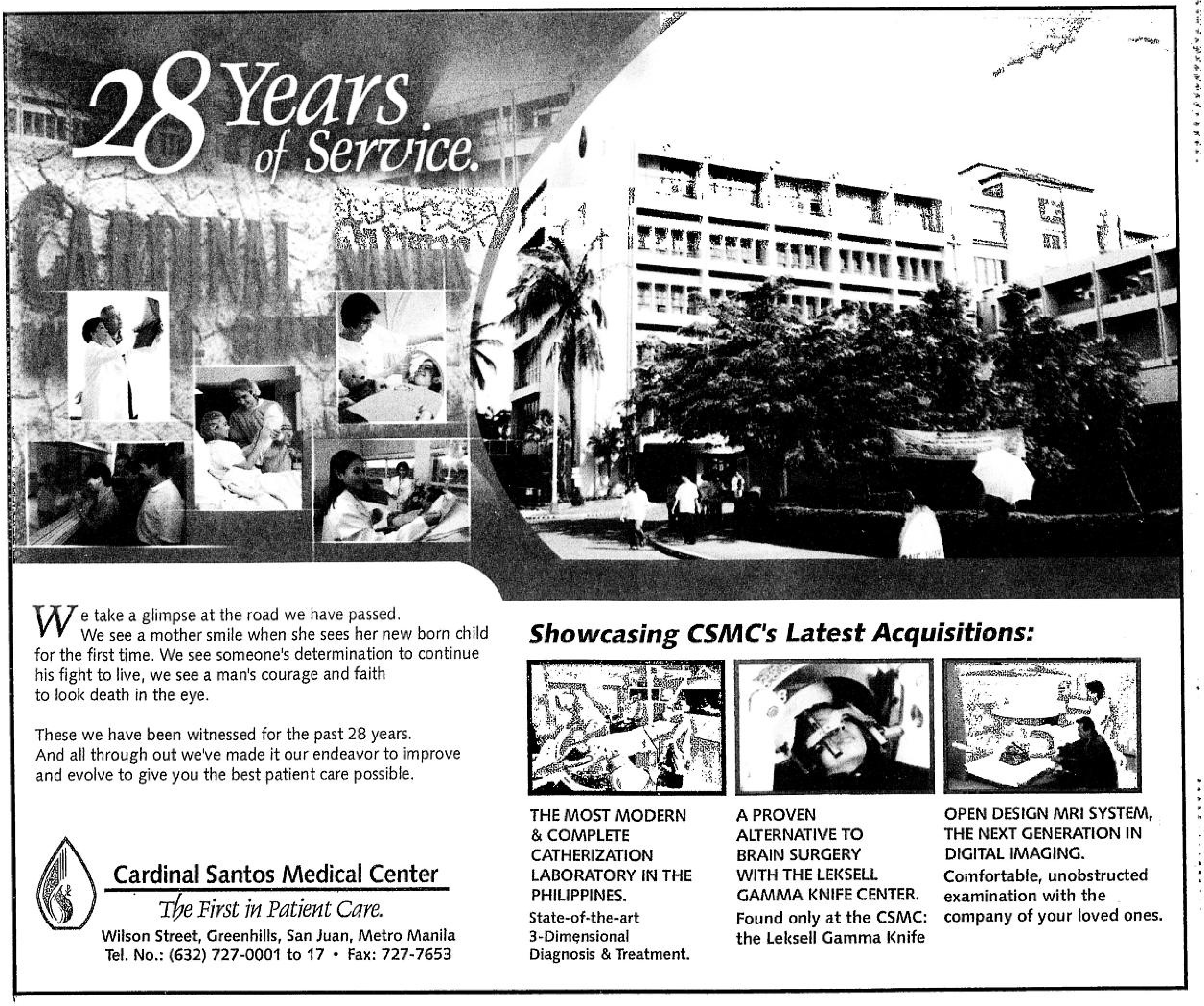

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# 'Asian brown cloud' casts sinister pall over India

NEW DELHI—The thick haze currently covering South Asia could choke India's heavily-agricultural dependent economy unless the government takes steps to fight urban air pollution, a top environmentalist said Wednesday.

The haze, known as the "Asian brown cloud," extends across an area seven times the size of India across all of South Asia, scientists said this week.

Aside from modifying rainfall patterns and the intensity of sunlight, the haze could cause premature deaths due to respiratory diseases, the scientists said.

"We are looking at a devastating impact on the economy, if all the studies' results hold true. The time has come for the government to realize that hard action has to be taken," Sunita Narain, director of the Center for Science and Environment, said.

She said concerted action would definitely help make the haze disappear as it was nothing more than a "big cloud of pollution." The cloud is made of solid and liquid particles floating in the air, known as aerosols, largely caused by wide-scale burning of fossil fuels. *AFP*

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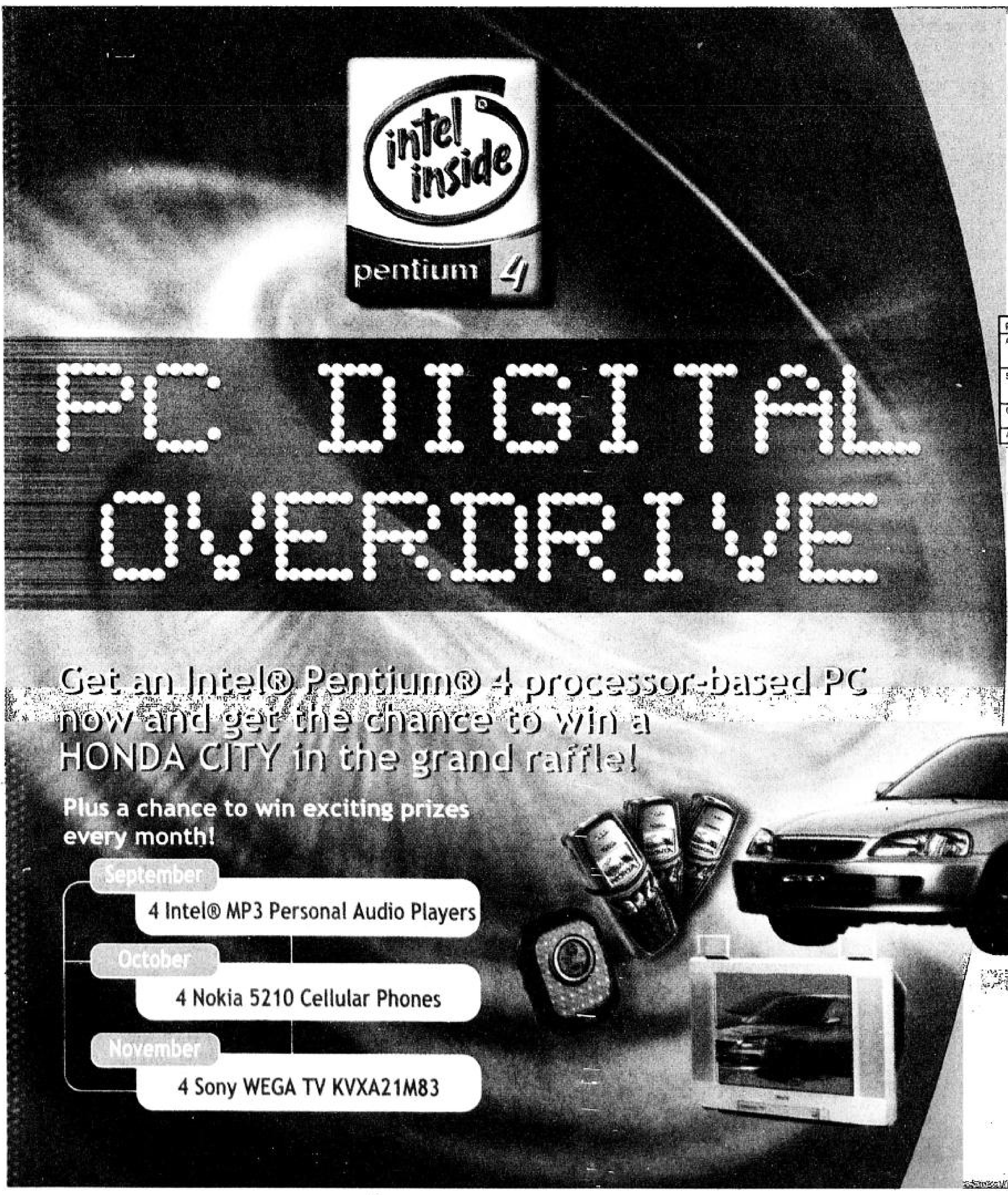
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# Across the NATION

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## Vigilante group turning into Kuratong

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The Nueva Ecija-based Red Vigilante Group (RVG), a band of former New People's Army rebels, has turned into a Kuratong Baleleng, police officials said.**

Police raised the alarm as the RVG, from reportedly annihilating drug pushers starting in the 1980s, allegedly shifted to kidnapping and gun-for-hire activities in recent years.

"It has evolved into a Kuratong Baleleng that originated in Mindanao," said a police intelligence officer in Nueva Ecija, referring to the gang finished off by the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

The officials said the RVG has also established ties with the Revolutionary Proletarian Army based in Negros.

From seven rebel returnees who surrendered to the government in the late 80s, the RVG, led by Ricardo Peralta, has expanded into a band of 60 men, half of whom are heavily armed.

"They are trained in the guerrilla tactics of the NPA and urban warfare of the ABB (Alex Boncayao Brigade, the hit squad of the NPA in the Metro Manila-Rizal area). They can not anymore be handled by ordinary police work," the officials said.

The officials had asked not to be named expressing fears of retaliation.

Senior Supt. Dominador Flores, regional intelligence office chief in Central Luzon, said a policeman organized the RVG in 1995 as a counter-insurgency force.

"It began on a good purpose. Eventually, the group degenerated," Flores said on Tuesday.

Mystery surrounded the existence of the RVG. In Bongabong, Nueva Ecija where the band is based, residents there know that Ricardo Peralta, the RVG founder, was the son of NPA commanders Arcadio Peralta and Norma Linsangan.

Ricardo, his brother Jaime and their mother Norma surrendered after Arcadio was killed in an encounter in Zambales.

An NPA band named after Arcadio continues to operate in the Nueva Ecija-Aurora boundaries.

Nueva Ecija police said residents and even politicians in the province "tolerated" the RVG.

Confessed RVG member Miguel de la Cruz began lifting the shroud of mystery.

Arrested in May for illegal possession of firearms, De la Cruz gave out details of the group's alleged criminal deeds.

In his affidavit, De la Cruz said the RVG was behind the abduction and murder of father and son Julio and Julius Alejo in October last year.

Since September 2001, the group also abducted seven suspected drug pushers in Gapan, Nueva Ecija. Three were released and four were executed, one of whom survived.

A couple and a child in Sto. Niño, Gapan town were also abducted. Although the wife and the child were released, the husband was killed and dumped in San Miguel, Bulacan.

At least 11 residents of Maisan, also in Gapan, were seized, five of whom were later freed, including a Doctor Medina.

Six others were killed, their bodies dumped also in San Miguel.

## Cops arrest Nur men for sowing terror in village

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Central Mindanao police authorities arrested at least five members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on Monday for allegedly terrorizing residents of a remote village of Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat province.

The suspects were identified as Suwaib Nono Lawan, 28, married and a resident of Buluan, Maguindanao; Malik Kanakan Sapal alias Guinaton Kundil, 46 and a resident of Kolambuguin, Buluan Maguindanao; Tani Dalinan, 20, married and resident of Kolambuguin, Maguindanao; Thong Kundil Antilino, 22, single and Ibrahim Bert Dalinan, 52 and resident of Lagandang, Isulan in Sultan Kudarat.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police director, said elements of the 3rd Company of the Police Regional Mobile Group also seized two FAL assault rifles, a .30 caliber M1 Springfield rifle with 16 bullets, a jungle bolo, pouches, combat backpacks, combat shoes and other personal belongings from the suspects.

Baluyot said the MNLF members have been complained of by residents of Purok Bagong Lipunan in Barangay Lanchita.

The residents reported that "an unidentified armed group" was harassing them.

At about 8 a.m. on Monday, Baluyot said that the police had engaged the armed men in a brief firefight. Nobody was hurt though.

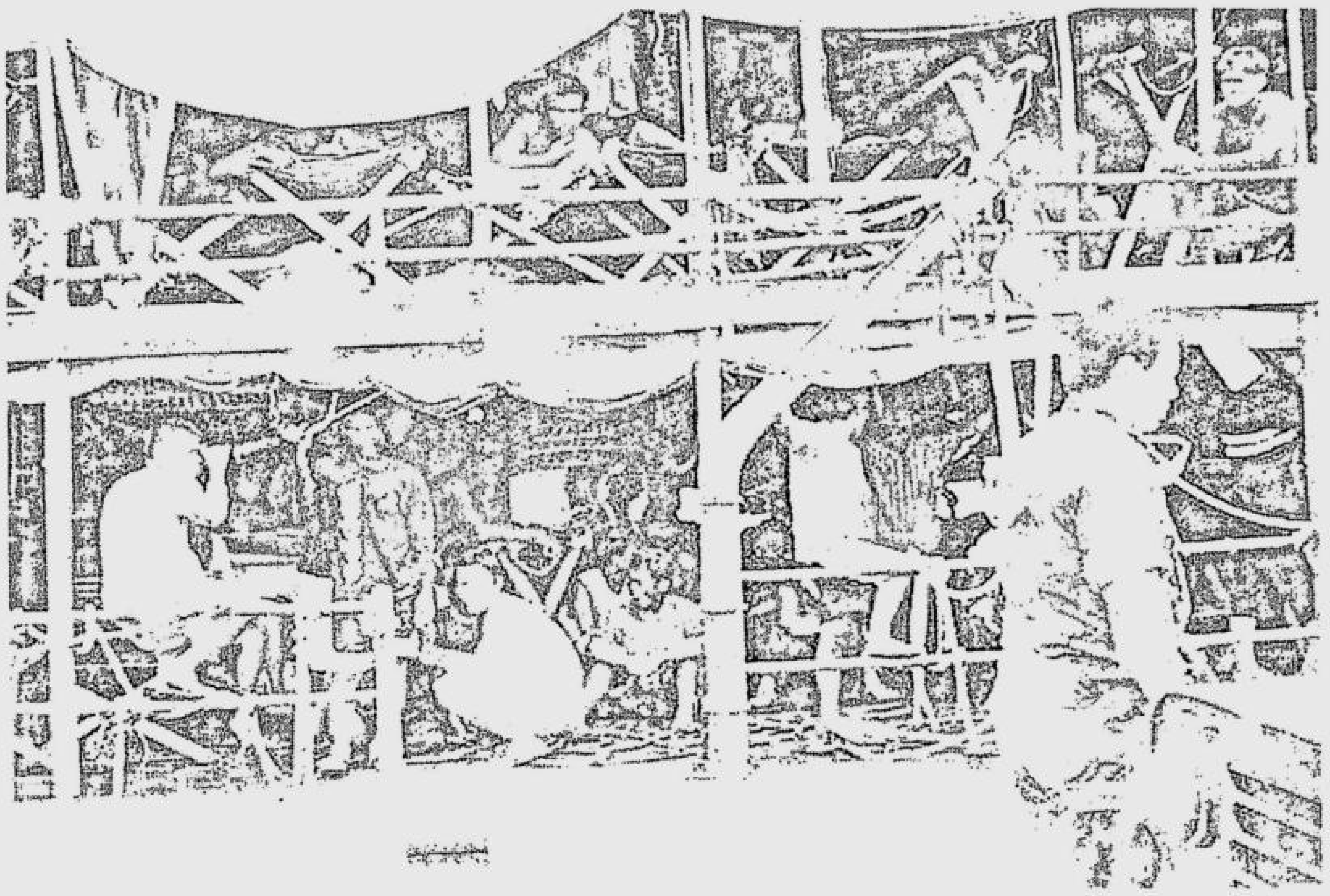
But in an interview, Ibrahim Dalinan denied the alleged encounter. He said he and his companions peacefully yielded.

Dalinan also denied that they harassed the villagers. He said his group was trying to locate a certain Amiludin Jamison, who earlier set his house on fire.

Misuari is in jail on charges of masterminding attacks in Jolo, Sulu.

In Maguindanao, 12 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) surrendered to the military.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Karim Kayago, alias Commander Rene of the 2nd Field Division of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, headed the group. *Aquiles Zonio and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



DOMINIQUE MONERA TABORA

**BOAT PEOPLE**
**Soldiers apprehend in Puerto Princesa the MB Unity Faith, a fishing vessel that authorities said hired minors for its crew. The vessel's catch was confiscated for distribution to charity organizations.**

## 17 dead in separate road crashes in Mindanao, Baguio

SEVENTEEN persons died in separate road accidents in Mindanao and Baguio City.

In Zamboanga, 12 people died and two others were in serious condition after a 10-wheel cargo truck collided with a van in Barangay Overview in Liloy town shortly after 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The Western Mindanao police said yesterday the cargo truck, which was bound for Zamboanga del Sur, was negotiating a steep curve on the national highway when it rammed into the van bound for this city.

Liloy is about 100 kilometers from Zamboanga City.

The Zamboanga del Norte police reported that nine of the van's passengers and the driver identified as Norhari Aquilan, a resident of Sta. Catalina here, died on the spot.

The other fatalities were Pfc. Ricky Aguit, a member of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion; Florinit Senoc of Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur; Denian Alvarez and Fe Arevalo, both of Titay, Zamboanga Sibugay; Rosalito Manait of Dinuan in Salug, Zamboanga del Norte and Jun-Jun de los Santos, the van's conductor.

Two other victims, a middle-aged woman and a five-year-old child, remained unidentified yesterday.

Van passengers Allan Roxas of Quitaboc in Titay town and Aniceta Sangayan of Nazareth in Kabasalan, Sibugay Province died while being rushed to the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Hospital according to the police.

Supt. Marcelino Lipana, Zamboanga del Norte police director, said the cargo truck's driver Eusebio Alumbay, 55, of Baybay, Liloy was slightly injured.

Lipana said Alumbay surrendered and is now detained.

In Monkayo, Compostela Valley, a miner was killed while 13 others were injured when the dump truck they were riding in fell into a ravine in Barangay Upper Ulep, police said.

In Baguio City, four people were killed while 16 others were injured when the jeepney they were riding in slammed into an electric post on Naguilian Road.

Police identified two of the dead as Romulo Valdez and Gilbert Manautan. They and an unidentified woman died before reaching the Baguio General Hospital. *Ed General with a report by Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## Army worms cause damage to 24 has of farms in Negros

BACOLOD CITY—Provincial Agriculturist Igmedio Tabianan on Monday said army worms damaged 24 hectares of ricelands in the cities of Kabankalan and Himamaylan, Negros Occidental.

In his report to Gov. Joseph Maranon, Tabianan said the army worms affected seven barangays in Kabankalan, about 97 kilometers south of this city.

These were Barangays Tampalon, Locotan, Daan Banwa and Magballo, each with three hectares of affected riceland; Tapi, 5; Pinaguinpinan, one; and Bantayan, four.

The pests also damaged three hectares of riceland in Barangay Cabanbanan, Tabianan said.

Tabianan told the governor in his report that his office already provided technical assistance to the farmers to help them control army worms.

"We have also organized farmers . . . and sprayed (the) affected areas. The Kabankalan City agriculturists procured chemicals for spraying," he added.

Tabianan said the most damaging of the worms were their larvae which feed on the leaf surface.

The army worms live in rice environments, but they cause more damage in upland rice farms because these are more moist.

Lowland fields also occasionally suffer damages when the worms' larvae move from one field to the other, said Tabianan.

Army worms usually attack rice crops after a long dry spell, he said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## Police plan new measures vs highway robberies

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Random inspection of buses. More mobile patrols. Additional field marshals. Six checkpoints.

Expect these measures to be implemented on the 84-km North Luzon Expressway where three incidents of bus robberies and holdups, mostly along the Pampanga and Bulacan segments, had left two people, including a policeman, dead and four others wounded last week.

Officials of the Philippine National Police and the Philippine National Construction Corp. announced these measures after meeting here on Tuesday in a bid to put an end to the rising number of similar incidents.

Throughout Central Luzon, at least eight hijacking cases and six bus robberies were reported to the police during the year's second quarter, according to Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director.

Four bus robberies had been staged along the Bulacan stretch of the expressway since January. While those in Bulacan occurred in long intervals, three incidents in Pampanga took place one after the other.

Some cases went unreported, said Taciano Mutuc, assistant vice president of the PNCC's North Luzon tollway division.

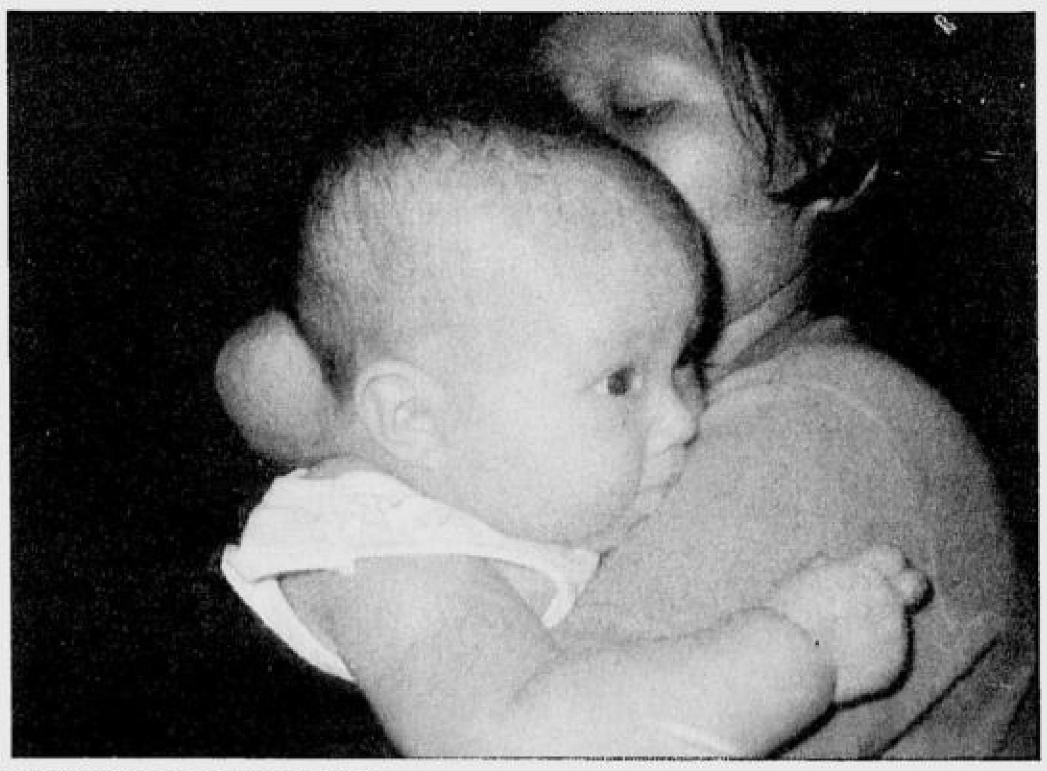
There were no immediate reports on the total number of similar crimes or of their victims. But in 1999 alone, a former PNP Central Luzon police director estimated that an average of two bus robberies took place every month along the expressway.

Like in recent years, the targets have been passengers of air-conditioned buses, Calderon said.

He scored bus companies for not allowing the police to inspect passengers before boarding time. The companies reasoned that the inspection, especially the frisking, inconvenienced the riding public.

"But they're disregarding the security of their passengers," Calderon said.

In the three Pampanga cases, the buses had policemen for passengers. In the separate incidents, Calderon said three policemen fought the holdup men.



**BABY Marianne with her mother.**

JULIE ALIPALA

## Parents of baby with deformity plead for help

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At first glance, Marianne Tabiano is every inch a healthy four-month-old baby. One would never suspect that something is wrong with her, in fact, terribly wrong.

But touching her nape would immediately lead one to conclude that indeed, baby Marianne was not normal after all. A soft mass, which was slightly bigger than a baseball, protrudes.

Dr. Hindenbeurgh Calumba examined the mass of tissue in Marianne's head.

After several tests, Calumba concluded that the baby has encephalocoele.

"This is not just fluid, this is not just hydrocephalus as we believe it was, but a case of meningcocyl," Calumba said.

Dr. Rufino Cuevas, a specialist on hydrocephalus, explained that Marianne's bulge contained brain tissues, which made operating on her too difficult to perform locally.

"It's either you remove that part of the brain or you have to retain some of it. When the brain had formed, you cannot just put out some of it because we don't know the consequence," Calumba said.

Doctors said Marianne could suffer from "some neurologic diseases" after the operation.

"She might not be able to walk or the operation might affect her thinking later on," Cuevas said.

But despite the odds, the doctors agreed that operating on Marianne would be the soundest choice.

"Because we could not let it continue. The defect or the problem has to be corrected now (because) as the child grows, the brain tissue also continues to grow outside (the skull) and (will soon) cause risk (to her life)," Calumba said.

He said an infection might also affect Marianne's nervous system and could cause her death.

Marianne's deformity was discovered by doctors here when her 18-year-old mother, Maribel, sought the help of the Tzu Chi Foundation, a Taiwan-based medical mission group, and the US-led Medical and Dental Civic Action Program in Barangay Mercedez here on Sunday.

Maribel said she braved the rain and strong winds to seek the help of the foreign doctors on the "desperate condition" of her baby.

"We are not rich so when I heard they were in (Mercedez), I immediately went there," she said. Maribel's husband Ryan, 20, earns about P100 per day as a tricycle driver.

Calumba said the services of doctors could cost up to P100,000.

Donors may inquire at the PDI Mindanao Bureau at tel. nos. 082-244-1770 to 71. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The entire archipelago will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 24° |
| **Baguio** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 24°** | Lo 16° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 25° |
| **Laoag** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 32°** | Lo 26° |
| **Clark Zone** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 24° |
| **Tagaytay** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 29°** | Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Calapan** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 29°** | Lo 23° |
| **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 29°** | Lo 24° |
| **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 30°** | Lo 24° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 23° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 25° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 31°** | Lo 23° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Hi 32°** | Lo 25° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/15/02

# CHR to probe gov't hospital for neglect

**By Chito A. Fuentes**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Bohol has started investigating another case of an infant falling to the floor after emerging from her mother's womb at the government-run Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH) on July 28.

Alfonso Bayocot, CHR Bohol field investigator, said the doctors and nurses involved had appeared before the CHR on Aug. 9 and had given their written explanations.

He said the CHR was still waiting for the GCGMH investigation report before wrapping up the probe.

"No comment," Bayocot replied when asked about reports the baby's parents were not inclined to file charges against the hospital personnel.

The latest case involved a baby girl, JL Marie Relator, who fell head first on the concrete floor of the hospital early morning of July 28.

The mother, Jesusa Relator, 44, said she was standing alone inside the labor room when the baby suddenly emerged from her womb.

This was the second time such an incident occurred. The first was on May 30. The boy's mother, Diosdada Aparilla, 37, filed a complaint of neglect and incompetence against four hospital personnel before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

In an affidavit obtained by the INQUIRER, Relator said she was alarmed when she did not hear her newborn infant cry. She panicked when she saw blood on the floor where the baby fell.

Bayocot neither confirmed nor denied if Relator's affidavit was the same one obtained by the CHR.

Relator said that at about 5 a.m. of Sunday, her husband, Leonito, brought her to the GCGMH because she was about to give birth to their eighth child.

Upon admission at the emergency room in the OB Gyne department, she was attended to by a doctor later identified as Dr. Vernalyn Ong Peduche. The doctor examined Relator who was informed that the findings showed that her cervix was three centimeters dilated.

A fully dilated cervix (10 centimeters) indicates that the woman was about to give birth.

A dextrose was attached to Relator after tests showed she had high blood pressure. A hospital staffer interviewed her, a requisite to her admission.

At around 6:30 a.m., she complained that the pain in her stomach had become intense. But Peduche reportedly advised her to go to the delivery room where a nurse, later identified as Virgilia Aldohisa, drove her out.

Relator said she heard the nurse shout in Cebuano "She's 3 cm yet!"

Despite the severe pain, Relator said she went out of the delivery room. While holding a dextrose bottle, she proceeded to the labor room.

There, she said other patients helped her hang the bottle on a steel stand near a bed.

About 20 minutes later, Relator said she felt she was about to give birth. While moaning in pain and holding her breath, she asked her co-patients to call the doctors.

When she was left alone, the baby came out while she stood in the labor room.

". . . (A)fter several minutes, a nurse rushed inside the labor room and she picked up my newborn baby. Later, Doctor Peduche arrived then she advised me to lie down on the bed while waiting for a wheel chair," Relator said in her affidavit.

Relator said the doctor on duty at the delivery room identified as Dr. Araceli Joy Piollo suddenly barged into the labor room and angrily shouted at her.

She said Piollo asked her why she labored when she was alone and did not call them who were inside the delivery room.

# Army says it has proof rebs using minors

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac—The military on Monday accused the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the military wing of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, of using minors in its war against the government.

The military's proof was the capture of a 6-year-old son of two suspected RHB members during a clash last Tuesday at Barangay Sto. Rosario in Masinloc, Zambales.

Government soldiers caught up with the RHB members shortly after the rebels clashed with their rivals, the New People's Army rebels, in the area.

According to the military, the boy lives at the encounter site. Government troops from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion captured him together with a 17-year-old youth from Pangolingan, Palauig, also in Zambales.

In a statement, the Army said this development "substantiated earlier reports that communist rebels have no qualms in using minors during tactical offensives, to the point of endangering the lives of these unsuspecting children."

The RHB, formed in 1997 after several Central Luzon cadres broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines, strongly denied the Army's accusation.

In a statement, Ka Milan, spokesperson of the RHB Zambales Command, said the boy was 10 years old and was the son of a farmer in the village where the Army had pursued the RHB.

Ka Milan described the boy as "mentally retarded" and raised concern for the boy's safety while in the hands of the military.

"As a matter of policy, the RHB does not recruit, train or mobilize children as armed combatants or for any other tasks in the revolution. With what the military has done to the boy despite his poor mental state, the AFP demonstrated that it could arrest children and use them in its agenda to discredit the RHB," Ka Milan said.

The military said the boy, whom it described as epileptic, was with his parents when the encounter took place.

In the statement, it claimed that the boy, while in military custody, admitted that his parents were carrying firearms "like those of the soldiers."

The statement did not say if the boy was interrogated or questioned in the presence of a social worker.

In Isabela, Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police chief, said at least 60 NPA rebels from Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos region and Metro Manila were spotted by intelligence operatives massing up for a plenum somewhere in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

He said the planned NPA stronghold was to be established either in Macayu-cayu or in Ballao, both in San Mariano town in Isabela. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# More Army men sent to Zambales

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A company-sized unit of the Philippine Army was sent on Tuesday to Zambales to pursue communist rebels.

But military officials said the movement of government troopers was not in any way related to US Secretary of State Colin Powell's pronouncement declaring the New People's Army as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).

The 100 troops sent to Zambales belonged to the 48th Infantry Battalion pulled out from the Cordillera since six months ago, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, told the INQUIRER.

Considered the strike battalion, the 48th IB was occasionally deployed in Metro Manila for crowd-control tasks, Garcia said.

"(Their assignment in Zambales) is not related to Secretary Powell's declaration (that listed the NPA as an FTO)," he said.

"There is no order from the AFP along that line," he added.

The order, he said, was to remain alert against possible attacks on vital public utilities like power and water lines.

The Army's 24th Infantry Battalion also operates in the Bataan-Zambales area, raising the number of government troops there to almost 500 or four times the size of the NPA and its rival group, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan.

In the Ilocos, Cagayan, Cordillera and Central Luzon, the Army has dispersed more than 10,000 troops to areas influenced or infiltrated by the rebels.

*Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

# Bicol's fishing bowl eyes world market

**By Ronnie Lorejo**
*Legazpi City*

JUST a four-hour drive from Legazpi City or a 15-minute drive from the airport of Daet, Camarines Norte is Bicol's largest fishing ground and the nation's third largest off the coastal town of Mercedes.

The town produces dried and smoked fish, and other processed fish items that have become a major source of livelihood for people in the entire province. Squid, *galunggong, dilis, tanguigue, lapu-lapu* and tuna are commonly caught in the area.

With Mercedes' rich marine resources, its mayor, Pepito Lo, announced during the "5th Kadagatan Fishtival" last Aug. 7 that the town would soon be ready to cater to the international market.

"Our focus this time is no longer on local buyers but on the international market," Lo said. The festival, he added, would make Mercedes known not only to Bicol and the country but also to the world, for its sea products and tourism potential.

### Old port town

Mercedes, formerly called Barra, has long been a port of trading vessels. Often, a vessel entering its harbor would run aground due to bad weather or the skipper's little knowledge of the place. The vessel was said to be *nabara* (blocked) in the native language, and since such incidents frequently happened, the word "Barra" had been adopted as the name of the place.

Once, a Spanish ship ran aground in the bay, and the captain's wife, Doña Mercedes, was among its stranded passengers. As the vessel remained in the waters for a few days, Doña Mercedes had a chance to meet the natives and her virtuous ways eventually endeared her to the people, especially the poor for whom she seemed to have a soft spot in her heart.

.When Doña Mercedes died, the people decided to name the place after her, although its old name "Barra" persisted up to this time.

Even before it became a municipality, Mercedes served as the trading post of Camarines Norte because of its location. Foreign and interisland ships dock at its port to load minerals, copra and logs, among other local products.

### Rich waters

Unknown to many, this fourth-class municipality produces at least 1,000 tons of fish daily. The residents' major means of livelihood, fishing accounts for 56 percent of town revenues.

During the fishing season, hundreds of fishing vessels of different tonnages and capacities drop anchor, joining the influx of merchants and migrant workers to the port.

"The major supplier of marine products, particularly of processed (smoked) fish, in the country, especially in Metro Manila, is the municipality of Mercedes," Mayor Lo said. "That is why our priority is to invest in the fishing industry and tourism."

To meet increasing demand for its produce, the municipal government has allocated funds to fully implement certain infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of the port.

"We are now in the process of packaging our fish products for the international market. So far, we are now exporting smoked fish," Lo said. As far as quality is concerned, their smoked and other processed fish products meet international standards, he stressed.

The municipal government also helps the fisherfolk by extending loans without interest. "This is part of our livelihood assistance to the poor fisherfolk in the area, for so long as they will use the small amount for a self-sustaining livelihood," Lo explained.

A total of P27 million has been earmarked for the construction of roads connecting the town proper to the remote barangays. But Lo said development had been concentrated in the port area, which comprises seven barangays, where trade and commerce take place.

### Tourism

Once the infrastructure facilities are completed, Mercedes will be the next major tourist destination, not only in Bicol but also in the entire country, Lo said, noting the tourism potentials of its attractive white beaches and the peculiar Crocodile Hills near Daet. Its seven groups of islands are the favorite vacation spots of local and foreign tourists.

Tourism regional director Ma. Nini O. Ravanilla said the holding of the Kadagatan Fishtival "is one way of encouraging local folk to really take care of the sea and the environment as a whole."

"We would like to promote the town as one of the most sought-after tourism destinations in the country," she said.

**THE COASTAL** municipality of Mercedes prepares to catch the big fish—the international market.

DOT FILE PHOTO

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# 'Subli': Batangueños' dance of devotion and seduction

**By Mei Magsino**
*Batangas City*

SINCE the 17th century, no other form of art has made Batangueños proud of their cultural identity than the *subli*, a native dance still performed in the province by the young and the old, in a state of grace that spells adoration, devotion, remedy, entertainment and seduction.

Each year on July 23, when Batangas City celebrates its cityhood, the Sublian Festival takes center stage.

In Barangay Sinala, also known as the Subli capital of Bauan town, *subli* is danced with chanting.

To the beat of a small tabouret covered with lizard skin, the *subli* can be danced by one or several pairs. Here the boy approaches the girl, and once in front of her, he starts clapping his hands to the tabouret's beating, stopping only when she heeds his invitation.

Usually, the girl gives in. She claps her hands and stands up. She raises her head, straightens her torso, gracefully extends her arms and tiptoes in small steps backwards in an eclipse.

The boy follows as she gaily and rhythmically moves her forearms and hands up and down. She moves her shoulders and hips, attracts and seduces.

The steps are short and light; thus, the girl appears to be floating. The boy seems to approach her, but not to touch her. He stoops down, bends and stands upright, arching his arms or extending them but never getting lost in the beat of the tabouret. He goes around the girl in a way that he may not see her back.

When the girl wants to end the dance, she throws her arms forward, extends both hands and moves them around very fast like a drill—her arms seem to be piercing the chest of the boy, who, in turn, imitates her moves.

When she gets near the place where she started, she sits down. The boy then looks for another girl who may want to dance with him.

### Miracle

The *subli* is native to southwestern Batangas, says Ed Borbon, who is in charge of the seven-day festivities in the city that culminated with the Sublian Festival. But the most documented and researched aspect of the dance is its history in Bauan. Historical records cite the *subli* in relation to the miraculous Holy Cross of Bauan."

The dance, which historical records say dates back to 1790, took roots from the faith of the people in a miraculous cross that reportedly swayed to the tune of the music.

The first mention of the *subli* was in the book, "Historia de la Provincia de Batangas," published in 1790 by Pedro Amuedo de Castro.

In a chapter on the Holy Cross of Bauan, 25 *indios* or native Filipinos testified that in 1595, a wooden cross was erected in a place called Alitagtag, where evil visions and terrible ghosts frightened the people and prevented them from getting water in a nearby fountain called Tolo.

When the cross was erected, the ghosts disappeared and the people were able to fetch water from the fountain.

A Visayan drunkard, who abused his wife, sent her one night to fetch water. The woman, still fearful of the ghosts, prayed before the cross. Suddenly, water flowed from one arm of the cross, filling her container.

The story spread all over town and many people came to worship the cross. Pilgrims reported that their prayers were answered and their illnesses cured.

The Bauan parish priest, who witnessed these developments, sought the transfer of the cross to his town's church. During the transfer, pilgrims came to pray, made offerings and had the children dance the *subli*.

Other accounts said the cross danced to the music of the *subli*, making it easy for the people to pull it up and transfer it to the big church of the old Bauan.

But since Barangay Alitagtag became an independent municipality, the cross was split—half is now in Bauan and the other half, in Alitagtag. Each year, on May 2, the two halves of the cross are joined. The next day, the miraculous cross is carried in a procession in town, and the feast is held with the dance of devotion. Here, the *subli* is danced in the streets.

### Voices

In 1988, University of the Philippines sociologist Dr. Elena Mirano, described the *subli* in her book "Isang Sayaw sa Apat na Tinig" as a dance with four voices.

The first voice is sung by the performer, while the second extols the Holy Cross of Bauan and narrates the history of Batangas. The third voice is the *subli* proper, which combines poetry, dance and music, while the fourth features the observer in his search for his lost self.

The *subli* is also a dance of devotion, thanksgiving, cure and entertainment.

Dancers pay homage to the holy cross as a show of devotion or a vow of their family that has been passed on from one generation to another.

As a dance of thanksgiving, it is a way of the Batangueños to express gratitude to God for the good harvest, weather and graces they have been receiving.

The dancers, especially the elders, devote time and energy to perfect the art that gives them good health and reportedly cures their illness.

The *subli* is also entertainment. In Bauan, it is danced with the *pandango*.

In Talumpok, Batangas City, the *subli* is also a dance of seduction as the choreography involves the moves and skips of the man to see the woman's toes. It is also an interpretation of the oldest form of courting a woman.

Sometimes, the dance takes as long as 12 hours.

Although Barangay Sinala in Bauan has been considered the town's *subli* capital, where everybody knows the dance, the practice is more prevalent in Agoncillo town, where it is performed in the plaza and church every night during summer.

There, the dance is performed in thanksgiving for all the good harvests and for the students who made it to college. As modernization set in, only the two towns and several barangays in Batangas City were able to preserve the *subli*.

### Sublian Festival

The Sublian Festival started in 1998 when Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha revived the vanishing art, Borbon said. Dancers from Bauan, Agoncillo, Tingloy, Alitagtag and other towns take part to show off their town's dancing style.

Through the festival, the Batangueños have realized that theirs is a cultural identity worth preserving.

Later, the event grew to include other traditions such as the *lupakan*, native games, *harana* (serenade) and *huntahan* (debate).

The festival is also held during the anniversary of Batangas' cityhood, which is now on its 33rd year. As the capital, Batangas City has become the melting pot of the *subli* in the province.

"In this city, it's not only doing good to preserve the Batangueño's identity, but also a way to unite the people," Borbon said. "The best part is that everybody is now aware that Batangas has a traditional dance. We also have to consider that it also strengthens our religion. Now all parishes study the art to pay homage to the holy cross."

Although the dance did not originate from the city, Dimacuha said it was Batangas City that initiated the festival to perpetrate the dance as a Batangueño identity. "If we didn't do that, the authentic dance could have faded away," he said.

The Sublian Festival, which has long been in the Department of Tourism's calendar, is now shown in the agency's 2002 postcards.

**SUBLI** is danced by high school students in Batangas for entertainment.

MEI MAGSINO

# GMA approval rating zooms in latest SWS poll

## Who paid for the survey?

**By Minerva Generalao**
*Chief, PDI Research Dep't*

WHAT sort of group is the Crusade for Better Philippines Movement (CBPM), which funded a Social Weather Stations survey that found President Macapagal-Arroyo's net satisfaction rating rising to its highest level since she came to power in January 2000?

Michael Say, CBPM founding chair, said the group's mission was "to enlighten our countrymen."

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Say, 43, said CBPM hoped to "empower Filipinos" and help them become "solution-oriented and positive in outlook."

In a press statement, SWS described CBPM as a nongovernment organization, which aims "to unite the citizenry to work together toward achieving progress in the Philippines." SWS said the group was holding office at No. 44 Scout Borromeo St., Quezon City.

CBPM is an umbrella organization of businessmen, professionals, students, overseas Filipino workers, retired military men and other concerned Filipinos, according to Say. It was organized in February last year, or a month after Edsa II.

Aside from commissioning the SWS survey, CBPM conducts in-house surveys of members of different sectors belonging to the group.

Say said the studies sought to reflect and assess the issues and concerns of the Filipino people "so we can initiate positive action" and relay urgent issues and feedback to concerned government officials.

It was for this reason that CBPM commissioned the SWS survey to ask people to answer the questions: "Are we really not happy with President Arroyo? Are the people really dissatisfied with her performance? If yes, how can she improve?"

CBPM also requested SWS to ask questions on the approval of the leadership of the President and trust in her as a person.

Some 18 members of CBPM contributed P10,000 each to fund the SWS survey questions, which cost a little more than P100,000.

Grace Santos, 23, one of the officers of CBPM and youth sector coordinator, said Say was the head of L&M Maxco Co. Inc.

L & M Maxco, a multinational firm, posted gross sales of more than P700 million in 2000. It was the country's 661st biggest corporation for that year, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Say has given advice to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Justice Amado Valdez of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and Finance Undersecretary Jose Calida and other officials, according to Santos.

Say, a management engineer by training, loves to write and do research as a hobby. He was editor of Say Magazine, a weekly published by Mahal Kong Pilipinas Inc.

Santos is a La Salle Benilde year 2000 graduate. Other officers of the CPBM are Tito Palisoc, Abby Rosales, retired Col. Almino Malaza, retired Col. Hospicio Galang and Jess Perico.

CBPM has 50,000 members, according to Santos. They include members in Pampanga, Batangas, Cavite and Metro Manila. The group plans to hold workshops for entrepreneurship in schools in Metro Manila like University of the East.

From page A1

The President also cited the defeat of the Abu Sayyaf, following the rescue of its hostages and the killing of its notorious spokesperson Abu Sabaya. "That's another important relief that the people felt," she said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cited a third factor: the campaign against crime.

Solutions to high power rates, criminality and terrorism were among the priorities the President mentioned in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last month, which stressed the need for a "strong republic."

Ms Macapagal said her rating had "more than recovered" from her low score last June.

The President's "best satisfaction rating in previous SWS surveys since she took office was 53 percent minus 26 percent, or a net of 27, on Nov. 3-21, 2001," the SWS said in a statement.

The survey also found that 46.4 percent of the respondents had "much trust" and 23.8 percent had "little trust" in Ms Macapagal as a person, giving her a net trust rating of 23.

The survey found "mixed opinions about the claims of both the administration and opposition as to whether the 2001 Sona promises have been delivered."

The survey found more plurality on whether the President had delivered on promises in her first year in power.

SWS said that 38 percent said she delivered on her promises while 30 percent disagreed and 32 percent were undecided.

## FVR raps Gloria: Too much politics

WHILE Malacañang exulted over the survey results, former President Fidel V. Ramos lashed out at the country's political leaders, including Ms Macapagal, for engaging in too much politics.

"There is an excess of politics and intramurals but there's lack of political will," Ramos said in Filipino over dzBB radio.

Ramos said the country's leaders should focus instead on jobs generation, education, health and social progress.

Asked if he was also directing his comments to Ms Macapagal, Ramos said: "Yes. We don't have to apologize for that."

Ramos said that he could talk frankly because he used to be a president. "That's why I'm like an elder brother dispensing advice to help the entire family," he said.

Ramos, however, stressed that he was not an opponent of the administration but rather "a teammate of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

Ramos noted that the country's leaders seemed to forget that the Philippines was an ideal location for investments, trade and tourism, and therefore should not be lagging behind its neighbors.

"I'm just reminding because our leaders forget this," he said. "We are too much preoccupied with politics." ***Report from Carlito Pablo***

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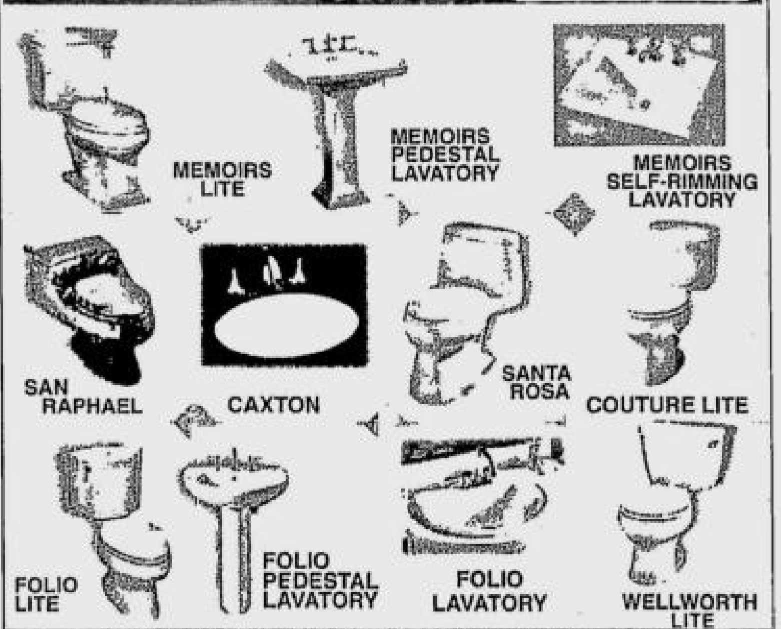

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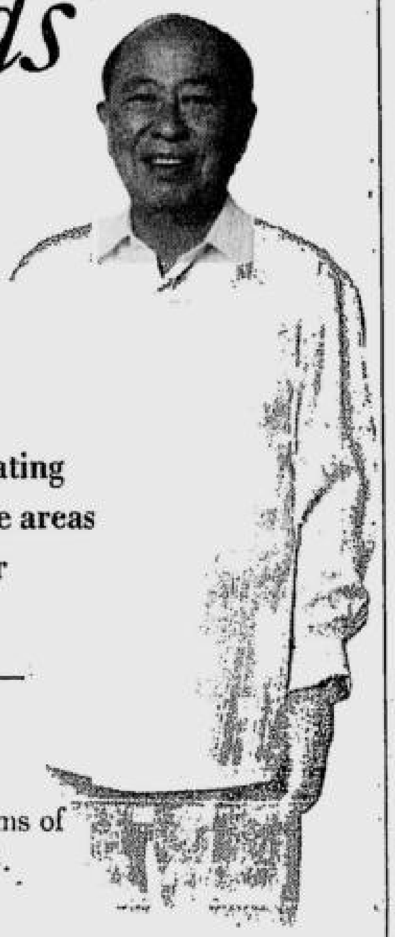
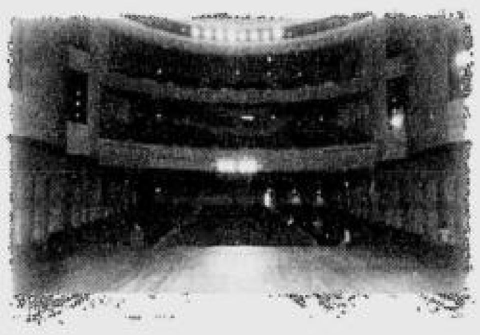


This deep-rooted commitment has borne fruit. Today, we are inaugurating three memorials that are meant to enhance our people's way of life in the areas of education, health care, culture and the arts. They symbolize our continuing faith in the Filipino.

Teresa G. Yuchengco Auditorium



At par with the finest cultural centers of the country in terms of structure, acoustics design, and technology, the Teresa G. Yuchengco Auditorium is the centerpiece of the newly-constructed E.T. Yuchengco Hall at the De La Salle University – Manila (DLSU-M) campus on Taft Avenue. Named after the wife of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, the auditorium seats 1,100 persons and has state-of-the-art facilities for cultural performances and commencement exercises. It will be inaugurated today, August 15.

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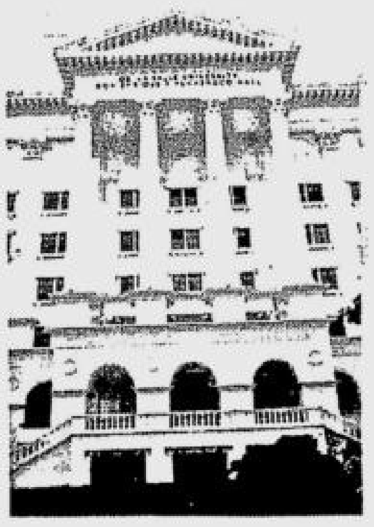
Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall



Symbolizing the ideal that education should be built on a strong foundation, the nine-storey building named in honor of Ambassador Yuchengco's father will also be inaugurated today, August 15. It houses the central administrative offices of DLSU-Manila, a three-story auditorium and the Yuchengco Center – a research center that conducts studies on Northeast and Southeast Asian economic cooperation and foreign relations.

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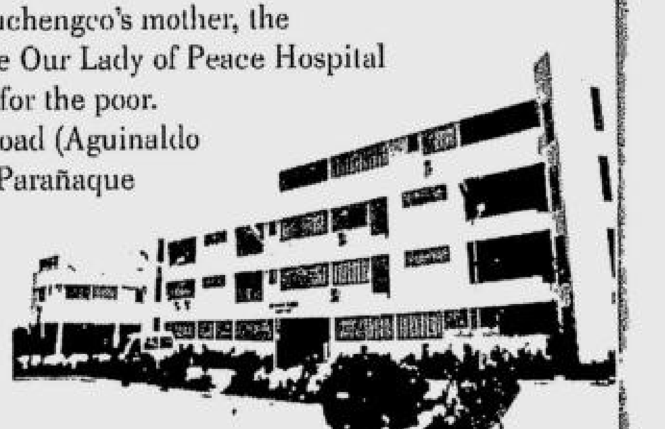
Doña Maria Hao Tay Yuchengco Charity Wing of the Our Lady of Peace Hospital

In honor of Ambassador Yuchengco's mother, the 100-bed charity wing of the Our Lady of Peace Hospital provides free medical care for the poor. Located along the Coastal Road (Aguinaldo Highway), Bgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City, this medical facility will be inaugurated today, August 15, with former President Fidel V. Ramos as guest of honor.



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Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco and the AY Foundation, Inc.

# GMA junks slot machines

From page A1

President's "strong republic."

Pagcor's plan also gave deposed President Joseph Estrada the opportunity to lash out at Ms Macapagal. Estrada, who is in jail on charges of corruption and for allegedly protecting illegal gambling operators, said Monday that Ms Macapagal "cannot escape suspicion" that Pagcor's new venture would be used to finance her reelection bid in 2004.

### Strike two

As if addressing her critics, Ms Macapagal pointed out that she earlier canceled Pagcor's plan to operate jai alai after the Supreme Court upheld its legality.

"I think this is already two strikes for Pagcor where I have overruled its decision," she said.

"I am not saying that its decision is illegal. I am just saying the jai alai and the slot machine (projects) do not quite measure up to the moral standards that we have set for governance," the President said.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara and administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. proposed the creation of a special oversight committee to look deeper into the operations of Pagcor.

Pagcor has not been accountable and transparent with its operations and finances, according to Angara. He said that Congress could enact a law that would place Pagcor under the audit powers of the Commission on Audit. Angara pointed out that only the intelligence funds of the government were not subject to audit.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said there was a need for Congress to find out how Pagcor money was spent. "Well, according to them, they fund a lot of the social services needed by the government so we want to see also where these charity projects go to," she said.

Legarda said that the slot machines would only drain the pockets of the youth and provide temporary entertainment. For his part, Senate President Franklin Drilon said there was a need to strike a balance between raising revenues and protecting minors from the harmful effects of gambling.

In the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla did not push through with his plan yesterday to file a resolution urging the President to stop Pagcor's expansion programs. The resolution became moot after the President aborted Pagcor's slot machine project.

Padilla said he might amend the resolution as it also sought to stop the plan of Pagcor to build a $15-billion "Entertainment City" on a reclaimed property along Roxas Boulevard.

Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar said he would no longer pursue two resolutions he filed yesterday following the presidential order.

Del Mar filed House Resolution No. 703, which sought to revoke Pagcor's franchise, and House Resolution No. 704, which urged Ms Macapagal to stop Pagcor from implementing its slot machine project.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval said the move of the President showed the need for Pagcor to be "cautious" about its projects because not all people or communities wanted gambling in their place.

Sandoval said there was nothing new about Pagcor operating slot machines outside casinos. A slot machine parlor has been operating in Ronquillo, Sta. Cruz since 2000. It was approved during the time of the Estrada administration, Sandoval said.

He said Angara's assertion that the country was turning into a "gambling republic" was unfair because Estrada was a protector of gambling operators.

It was Sandoval who described the country as a "gambling republic" in a privileged speech when Estrada was still in power. He said he would come up with amendments to the Pagcor charter and franchise to clarify "what Pagcor should and should not do."

### Acceptable

At a luncheon with Malacañang reporters shortly after giving her order, Ms Macapagal said Pagcor must find other ways "more acceptable to our moral standards, to the moral standards we are trying to improve" to raise funds.

The President said she personally preferred Pagcor concentrating on high-end projects such as putting up "tourism estates" that would cater to tourists or moneyed people.

A tourism estate could have a theme park like Nayong Pilipino, hotels and restaurants, she said, and the casino would only be a small part of it.

The President said a reclaimed portion of the Manila Bay owned by the Public Estates Authority would be an ideal place for the theme park.

"It's like Disneyland, but with a little casino," she said.

"I'm not saying (that Pagcor) put the slot machines in the high-end (establishments). No, no, no," the President said. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# Macapagal to accept Roco resignation

From page A1

after I talk to him," she gaily told reporters over lunch yesterday when asked if she would ask him to reconsider.

Reminded of some of Roco's comments, she turned serious and said: "As a leader I have my own agenda. I'm not reacting to other people's comments. I have a moral compass. I know where I'm going, and most of the time I know how to get there."

The first source took exception to Roco's claim that Ms Macapagal denied him courtesy when she referred a graft complaint against him to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission without first informing him.

"If the President talked to him about it, what signal will this bring?" the source said. "Does it mean in effect that the President is telling him, '*Akong bahala sa iyo, bata* (I'll take care of you)?' This cannot be."

Malacañang has maintained that Ms Macapagal simply made a routine and ministerial function when she forwarded to the PAGC on Aug. 8 the complaint filed against Roco by the Department of Education Central Office Employees Union, and which the Palace received on Aug. 1.

The first source said courtesy was not the principal issue involved, and pointed out that the PAGC was also investigating Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

"It's the President being able to enforce the law on anyone, including members of her own Cabinet, without fear or favor," the source said.

### Romulo

It was Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo who set up the meeting to which Roco apparently agreed only yesterday.

Romulo said he hoped that the President and her education secretary would bury the hatchet. He said Ms Macapagal immediately tried to contact him upon learning that Roco resigned Tuesday morning.

"We consider Secretary Roco a dedicated and exemplary public servant. That's why we hope this matter will be settled," Romulo told radio station dzRH.

He said Roco misinterpreted the President's endorsement of the graft complaint to the PAGC.

"This is a routine matter," he said. "In fact there are pending cases against two Cabinet members (Perez and Dayrit) and two (Public Works) undersecretaries."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said PAGC Chair Dario Rama should not have discussed the graft complaint in public.

"It's supposed to be confidential," Bunye said at a news briefing. "Agency heads are reminded that documents of this nature are supposed to be kept confidential."

In his resignation letter, Roco expressed resentment at the fact that Rama gave media interviews on the PAGC investigation of the graft complaint.

Bunye said he did not know whether the President had reprimanded Rama.

### Doing her job

Justice Secretary Perez said the President was just doing her job when she endorsed the graft complaint to the PAGC.

"I respect (Roco's) view, but I don't think the President meant anything when she (made the endorsement)," he said.

He also said that if put in a similar situation, he would not resign from the Cabinet.

"If we will talk about bitterness, then maybe I have more reasons to feel that," Perez said in reference to the administrative complaint against him that the PAGC was investigating.

He said the complaint was baseless but the President still endorsed it for investigation.

But he quickly explained that the case against him did not involve graft.

"It is a complaint submitted by someone to the effect that I did not reply to his communication within a period of 15 days, the truth being that I acted upon on his letter and I made the communication directly to the President," Perez said.

"The complaint had no basis because the Department of Justice had already issued a resolution on the matter. The letter was just following up the case," he added.

A certain Antonio Diaz filed the complaint for violation of Section 5 (a) of Republic Act No. 6713 (or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) on May 28.

The law requires public officials to act promptly on letters and requests by replying to them within 15 days from receipt.

Perez said the complaint was a form of harassment.

"Nonetheless, I know the President had to do what she had to do. I was told to answer a month later . . . on June 21," he said. "I did not feel slighted at all. After all, I knew then that the President was doing her job. She could not just ignore the complaint. (But) in the spirit of transparency I was asked to submit, and I did submit, my counter-affidavit." ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

# *'There's life for Roco after gov't service'*

**By Juliet L. Javellana and Rocky Nazareno**

THERE'S life for Raul Roco after government service, according to his younger brother Camarines Sur Rep. Cho Roco.

"The guy is a genius," Representative Roco said of the newly resigned education secretary. "He made a name for himself by working very hard. Outside the government, he can make more impact on the public."

The lawmaker said it was his personal opinion that his brother would no longer return to the Cabinet of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had endorsed an investigation of a graft complaint against the latter without informing him about it.

"He has resigned—that is beyond reconsideration," Representative Roco said in a phone interview before noon yesterday. At that time, he said, his brother was headed for a meeting with the President at the Palace.

He said Ms Macapagal had requested the meeting to explain the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission's investigation of the complaint filed by the Department of Education Central Office Employees Union against his brother.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, a member of the administration's People Power Coalition, said the President's "penchant for self-inflicted wounds" had resulted in her Cabinet's loss of two heavyweights—Roco and former Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.—in less than two months.

"The problem revolved not around law (but) civility," Arroyo said at a press conference.

He chided Ms Macapagal for believing the DepEd union even before she had heard Roco's side. He said that if Roco could not explain his side, "then and only then should the President make public her displeasure."

Arroyo noted that both Roco and Vice President Guingona, who gave up the foreign affairs portfolio last month because of "differences" with the President, were "formidable public figures with great stature."

Both men were also "presidential timber," he said, adding that their "immense" help in Ms Macapagal's rise to power "seems to be forgotten."

In Cebu City, Promdi chair and former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña told radio station dyLA that Roco was the latest victim of politics in Malacañang.

Osmeña and Reporma chair Renato de Villa—both contenders for the presidency in 1998—issued a joint statement vouching for Roco's integrity.

Osmeña said Malacañang had asked him and De Villa not to issue any statement before the scheduled meeting of Roco and the President Tuesday night, but that they did so anyway because the meeting had been cancelled.

Osmeña said he believed that the people around the President, particularly those belonging to the ruling Lakas, had something to do with Roco's resignation.

He said Lakas had been slowly removing the original group that was instrumental in putting Ms Macapagal in power, and lamented that persons identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada were now in Malacañang.

Osmeña said he was saddened by the resignation of Roco, whom he described as the "strongest pillar" in the administration.

He expressed the belief that Roco's strict policies had affected the operations of a syndicate in the DepEd, which resulted in the filing of the graft complaint.

Representative Roco would not say if his brother would run for President again in 2004. "We don't even talk about that," he said.

As standard-bearer of the Aksyon Demokratiko party, Roco emerged third place in the 1998 election that Estrada won by a landslide.

Asked whether Roco could sustain his popularity outside the Cabinet, the lawmaker said: "Sustaining his popularity is the least of our concerns now. He just did the right thing by resigning."

The lawmaker agreed with House Assistant Minority Leader Abraham Mitra's earlier observation that Roco was a casualty of his own popularity. ***With reports from Job B. Belen and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# In 1 hour, Children's Hour nets ₱3 million

From page A1

Augusto Zobel de Ayala II.

The campaign has been institutionalized as an annual fundraising effort for children in need.

Together with the Ayala Foundation, the steering committee with the support of its honorary chair, former President Corazon Aquino, once again appealed to every working individual and company to donate at least an hour's worth of earnings for the benefit of the Children's Hour.

"We are a nation that recognizes the immense power of the youth. These socially aware and socially active people will in the future take positions of responsibility in government, the private sector and civil society," Aquino said in a statement.

"We must continue to take an active role in providing them the opportunity to achieve their full potential," she added.

This year's committee is led by Zobel, Ayala Corp. president, its vice chair ABS-CBN Foundation's managing director Gina L. Lopez.

Comprising the steering committee are business and government leaders Emily Abrera, Corazon Alma de Leon, Ramon R. del Rosario, Renato S. de Villa, Carol S. Dominguez, Susana A.S. Madrigal, Narcisa L. Escaler, Bob D. Gothong, Patricia B. Licuanan, Guillermo M. Luz, Justo A. Ortiz, Marianne G. Quebral, Pedro E. Roxas, Bienvenido A. Tan Jr., Bishop Socrates Villegas, and Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez.

According to Zobel, the Children's Hour in the Philippines was hailed as one of the most successful campaigns in the world—besting 23 countries in terms of donations and variety of marketing programs initiated.

# Dutch gov't freezes Sison, NDF assets

From page A1

same.

"We welcome it (Dutch freeze order)," President Macapagal yesterday told reporters. "I hope it hastens the peace talks so that the other side can think of parliamentary struggle and using the democratic space instead of engaging in violence and terrorism."

She said formal peace negotiations were in "limbo" after the NPA assassinated two legislators last year.

But Ms Macapagal said she remained hopeful that "back-channeling" between government negotiators and their NDF counterparts could lead to the resumption of peace talks, although no timetable had been set.

Sison founded the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968, but fled the country after his release from prison following the Edsa People Power Revolution. He was arrested under the Marcos regime and served nine years in prison.

### Under watch

The Dutch internal service, which has been keeping a close watch on Sison since 1992, believes he is still the leader of communist guerrillas responsible for hundreds of deaths in the Philippines every year.

According to the Philippine military, Sison continues to lead the 34-year-old communist insurgency under the nom de guerre of Armando Liwanag.

But Sison, who has played a leading role in peace talks with the government in recent years, denied links to terrorists.

He said he was merely a political adviser, not the leader of one of the world's last remaining Marxist rebellion.

"I am a recognized political refugee, protected by the Geneva Convention," Sison told the Associated Press. "I am only the chief political adviser." Sison said with a laugh that he and the NDF "have no bank accounts to freeze."

By branding his group as terrorist, the United States and the Netherlands would hurt fragile peace talks, he warned.

### Satisfied

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said "the Philippine government is satisfied with this decision."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that freezing rebel funds would "tighten the valves insofar as the terrorist capability" of the communist groups are concerned.

He said the funds likely came from supporters' contributions and extortion money demanded from candidates in exchange for "permits to campaign" during elections in NPA areas.

He had no figure for rebel funds abroad, but estimated that local insurgents raised about P108 million in 1999, P93 million in 2000, P98 million in 2001 and about P15 million so far this year.

"Definitely it will affect their foreign support and their operations in the Philippines," Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, Armed Forces spokesperson, told reporters in another briefing.

Purificacion said the NPA was operating in "about 2 percent of the entire archipelago."

Experts say the CPP also raises tens of millions of dollars every year through contributions from leftist parties across Europe as well as through extortion from rural-based businesses in the Philippines.

"Initially, it (Dutch move) will weaken the Communist Party and its armed components," said retired Lt. Gen. Alfredo Filler of the security consulting firm Independent Insight.

But Purificacion acknowledged the US and Dutch actions would "not necessarily" halt the communist rebellion and instead force the insurgents to step up their extortion.

### High alert

Soldiers are on "high alert" for NPA attacks after Sison called on the guerrillas to blow up power lines and commit other acts of economic disruption, he added.

In their latest attacks, NPA rebels ambushed and killed a soldier and a militiaman in Mindanao on Tuesday. Three other militiamen were wounded.

The military said the rebels also cut down a power transmission line elsewhere in Mindanao on Friday after the state-owned National Power Corp. rejected an NPA extortion demand of P5 million.

The NPA reached its peak strength of more than 26,000 fighters in the late 1980s when it assassinated about half a dozen US soldiers, including military adviser Col. James Nicholas Rowe. ***With reports from Christine Herrera, AP and AFP***

# Have you heard . . .

From page A1

The two major television networks—ABS-CBN and GMA-7—have yet to air the side of Moreno, the estranged wife of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, especially after the talk-of-the-town hospital encounter of the actress with Marquez's current girlfriend, Kris Aquino, on Friday.

Executives of both networks, however, denied a ban had been imposed on Moreno. But they did say they were protecting their respective stars.

Aquino is an exclusive contract star of ABS-CBN, where she hosts a daily morning show ("Morning Girls"), a nightly game show ("Game Ka Na Ba?") and a weekly show biz-oriented program ("The Buzz").

Marquez is a talent of GMA, where he is seen in the weekly sitcom, "Kool Ka Lang."

The shows of Aquino and Marquez are top-raters in their respective networks.

The two have openly admitted their romance months after the breakup of Marquez's marriage to Moreno.

ABS-CBN corporate communications director Pat-P Daza denied that there was a news blackout on Moreno in their network.

"It's management's commitment to protect its contract artists the best way they can be protected," Daza told the INQUIRER.

Marquez reportedly requested GMA-7 executives to ban his estranged wife from being interviewed on the network. But Marquez denied it yesterday.

"Why will I do that?" Marquez told the INQUIRER. "I don't even have a contract with GMA-7. If the network doesn't want to interview Ness, that's their prerogative."

GMA-7 programming executive Redgie Magno also denied that Marquez had requested a ban on Moreno.

"There's no direct order from GMA-7 management to ban her (Moreno) from any program," Magno explained. "We simply don't want to magnify the (hospital) issue anymore.

"Joey and Alma have an annulment case in court so we cannot also talk about it. That's sub judice."

Moreno's last TV appearance on GMA-7 was on July 13, when she was interviewed live by Rosanna Roces on "Startalk."

In that interview, Moreno said it was painful for her to hear Aquino confess on nationwide TV about her (Kris) relationship with Marquez.

Moreno said her children were also hurt. She has three kids with Marquez—Yeoj, Win-Win and VJ—plus an adopted daughter, Em-Em.

But Moreno said Aquino's admission of her romance with Marquez helped her (Moreno) because "now I know where I stand."

Moreno even addressed Aquino: "If she's really in love, I hope she and Joey will really be happy."

### Canceled appearance

The next day, Sunday, Moreno was scheduled to guest on ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," to promote her comeback movie, "Kapalit." But her guesting stint was cancelled hours before the show.

Aquino denied, however, that she had a hand in the cancellation of Moreno's appearance.

"I told my bosses I've been with ABS-CBN for six years and they never had a problem with me," Aquino said in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER.

"I told them not to consider my personal feelings anymore when it comes to getting anyone to appear on the show. I will abide by whatever decision they make."

Aquino left the country Monday night, following a tearful TV interview on "The Buzz" on Sunday to explain the cursing and threatening she got from Moreno at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa.

Aquino went to Los Angeles and is due back in two weeks.

### Mom mum

At the launching of the Children's Hour yesterday ***(story on this page)***, Kris' mother, former President Corazon Aquino, shunned media inquiries about her daughter's latest affair.

"No, she still does not have a public statement on the matter," said Aquino spokesperson Lourdes Siytangco when asked about the former President's relationship with Kris and her decision to go on a vacation to "think things over."

"She might just ignore these questions when raised," Siytangco told the INQUIRER.

# SPORTS

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## Giants defeat Braves, 7-2

ATLANTA—Jeff Kent homered twice, doubled and drove in four runs Tuesday, backing the solid pitching of Russ Ortiz as the San Francisco Giants beat the Braves 7-2. Benito Santiago added a two-run homer for the Giants, who moved into first in the National League wild card race with their seventh victory in nine games. They're a half-game ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost 4-3 to Montreal. *AP*

# San Miguel seeks semis slot against sister team Coca-Cola

**GAME TODAY**
*(Philsports Arena)*
7 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Coca-Cola

SISTER teams San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola try to outdo each other today in a bid to face top seed Batang Red Bull in the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup.

Grabbing the fourth spot upon their entry into the quarterfinals, the Beermen enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage against the fifth-ranked Tigers during their 7 p.m. encounter at the Philsports Arena.

The Thunder, who topped the eliminations with a 7-3 record, became the earliest semifinalist after brushing aside the Shell Turbo Chargers, 73-54, at the start of the quarters Tuesday night.

The defending champion Thunder are now awaiting the result of the San Miguel-Coca-Cola tiff to map out a battle plan fit for their title-retention bid.

Based on their only battle this conference, the Beermen have the upper hand after beating the Tigers, 85-73, more than a month ago. The Beermen only have to repeat that to book a semis ticket while the Tigers must win to keep them alive and force a rubbermatch.

But changes in imports has produced contrasting results.

Terquin Mott, who led the Beermen to the 1999 Commissioner's Cup crown, took over in manning the post from the 6-foot-9 Art Long. His teammate Shea Seals owns a pair of hot hands.

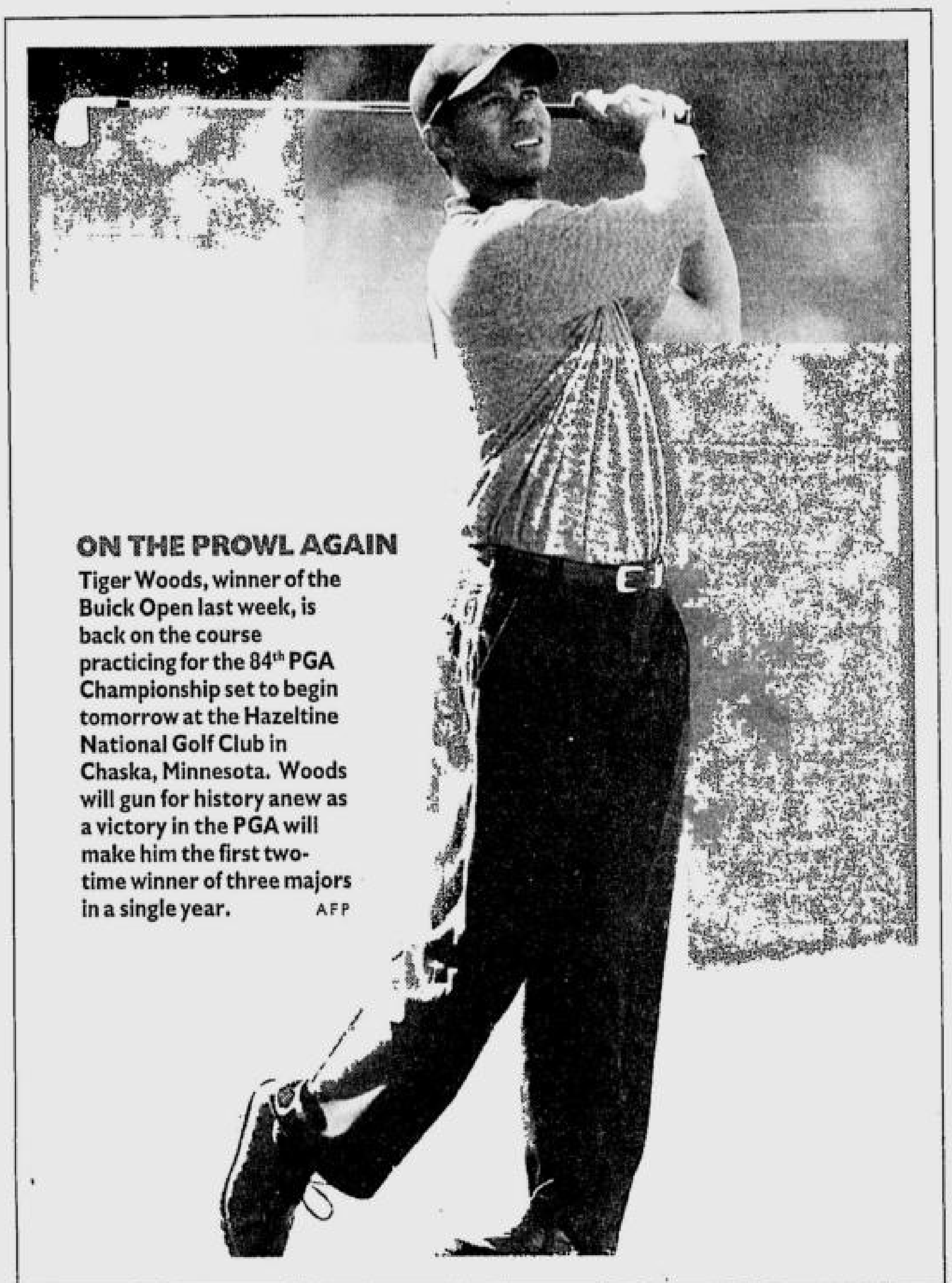
Ron Hale, too, has a different partner as the Tigers decided to replace the inconsistent Bryant Basemore with the menacing 6-foot-8 Torray Braggs.

History, however, is more inclined to give the Beermen a fair shake. Since the playoffs was institutionalized in 1999, the Beermen have seen action in eight quarterfinals bearing a twice-to-beat edge, advancing to the semis each time.

The only time they failed to squeeze past the quarterfinals was in the 1999 All-Filipino Cup when eventual champion Shell snuffed them out of the picture.

This will be the 18th straight post-elimination appearance of the Beermen, starting with the 1996 Governors Cup.

*June Navarro*



**ON THE PROWL AGAIN**
**Tiger Woods, winner of the Buick Open last week, is back on the course practicing for the 84th PGA Championship set to begin tomorrow at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota. Woods will gun for history anew as a victory in the PGA will make him the first two-time winner of three majors in a single year.** AFP

# Uichico to name final 12 for Busan Sept. 26

By June Navarro

**"JUST make an educated guess."**

**Thus said RP basketball coach Jong Uichico in reacting to the composition of his team published by the INQUIRER on Wednesday.**

"I've seen it but I don't want to comment on it," said the affable Uichico. He explained that he might utter words that could cause intrigue among the members of his team.

From 30 aspirants, Uchico has pruned down the number to 15.

An Asian Games basketball participant can bring 14 players, two of them alternates.

The INQUIRER lineup of 12 plus two alternates was arrived at after a thorough study of the players' statistics and minutes played during the Nationals' stint in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup.

Today is the deadline of submission of all the names of athletes set to see action in the Busan Asiad from Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

But Uichico said he would ignore the deadline and told the INQUIRER he would submit his final lineup on Sept. 26 during the meeting among team managers on Sept. 26 in Busan.

The San Miguel Beer coach also said the Philippine Olympic Committee and the PBA have not asked him to submit the final composition of the national squad.

He said when asked to, he would oblige "but I'll pick my players on a random basis" if only to meet the deadline.

Statistics showed that Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Olsen Racela, Danny Seigle and Jeffrey Cariaso are shoo-ins to the national team based on their playing minutes in the Commissioner's Cup.

Uichico's other players most likely to make it to the Final 12 are Kenneth Duremdes, Dennis Espino, Rudy Hatfield, Dondon Hontiveros, Noy Castillo, Mick Pennisi and Danny Ildefonso. The alternates are Andy Seigle and Boyet Fernandez.

"We're starting to build up on our confidence again after the result of our campaign in the PBA second conference," said Uichico, whose wards finished ninth in the 11-team field.

Uichico said the team is in deep training to restudy the nuances of amateur basketball rules that will be in effect during the Asian Games.

He said one solution to that is to pit the national team against other national teams from other countries.

Next week, Uichico's boys will face a team from Chinese-Taipei.

FILE PHOTO

**UICHICO: Biding his time.**

# UAAP board junks Gregorio's protest vs FEU cager

THE UAAP board found no merit yesterday to declare Far Eastern University's Arwind Santos ineligible to play in the UAAP basketball tournament.

The decision stemmed from the protest of Ryan Gregorio, coach of the University of the Philippines Maroons.

Gregorio argued that Santos played in the CBL tournament in Cebu, an alleged violation of UAAP rules.

But the board threw away Gregorio's protest on the ground that Santos wasn't an FEU Tamaraw yet when he played in the CBL. The board also based its decision on documents submitted by FEU's Anton Montinola backing Santos' eligibility. *ASM*

## *3 Chinese NBA players picked for world cagefest*

BEIJING —Three Chinese players in the NBA have been picked for their country's squad in the World Men's Basketball Championships, the official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday. Menk Bateer of the Denver Nuggets and Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets are in the main team, while Wang Zhizhi of the Dallas Mavericks is a substitute, the report said. *AP*

# Shell chess in Cagayan

THE 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship moves this weekend to Cagayan de Oro City for the North Mindanao segment of the annual nationwide chess festival. Venue will be the De Luxe Hotel.

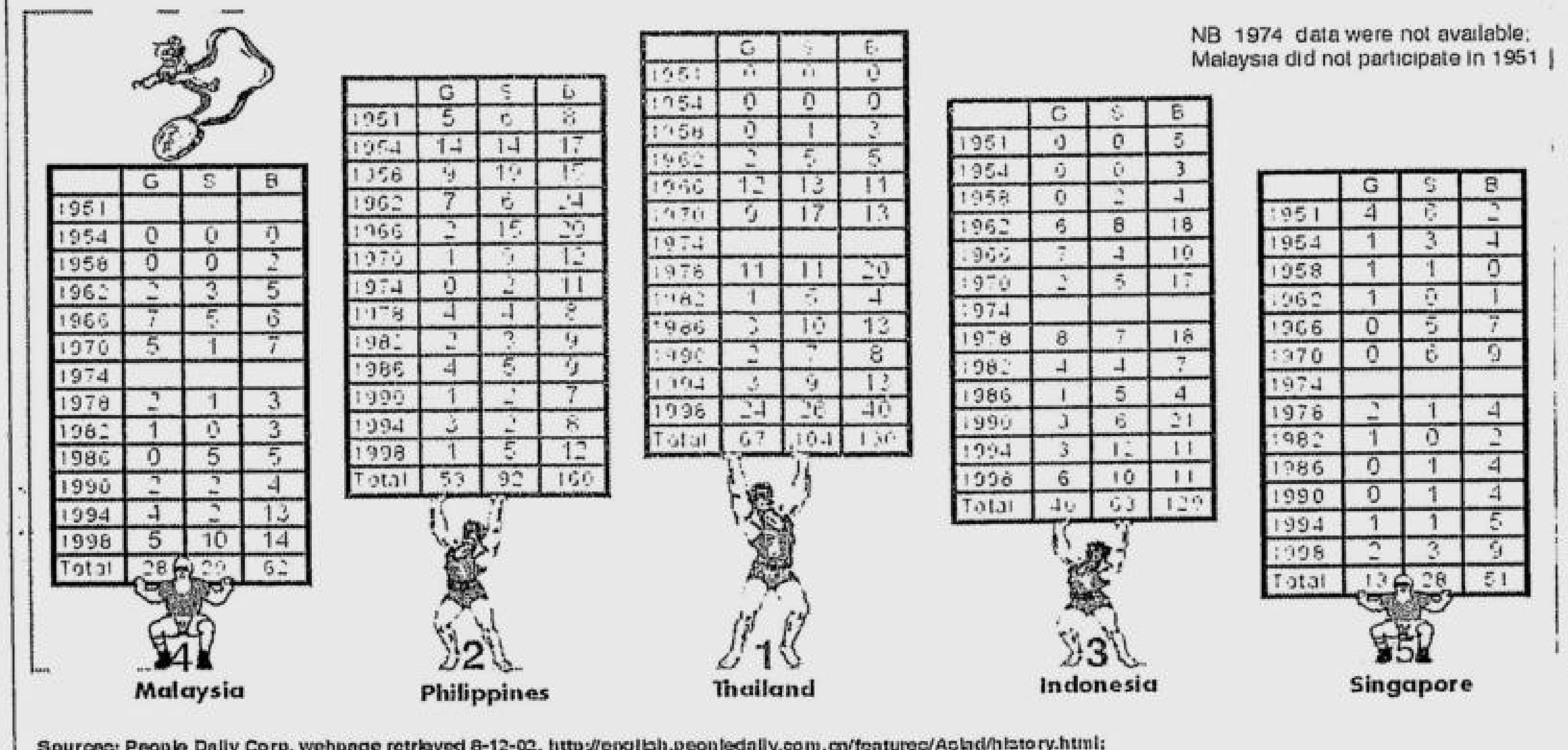
Leading the tournament opening rites are Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Y. Emano and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's Corporate Affairs Coordinator for Communications Karen S. Yaptinchay.

At stake in the seven-round Swiss system tournament are a combined purse of P27,000, medals and the honor to represent the region in the national finals.

Pilipinas Shell chess officials expressed their elation over the tremendous support and record-setting participation given by local schools and community-based chess clubs for the year-old tournament.

The yearly tournament has turned up six international masters, and seven women internationals masters.

## Performances of the Top 5 Southeast Asian countries in the Asian Games (1951-1998)



NB 1974 data were not available; Malaysia did not participate in 1951

4 Malaysia

| | G | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1951 | | | |
| 1954 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1958 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1962 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 1966 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 1970 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 1974 | | | |
| 1978 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1982 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 1986 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 1990 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 1994 | 4 | 2 | 13 |
| 1998 | 5 | 10 | 14 |
| Total | 28 | 29 | 62 |

2 Philippines

| | G | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1951 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 1954 | 14 | 14 | 17 |
| 1958 | 9 | 19 | 15 |
| 1962 | 7 | 6 | 24 |
| 1966 | 2 | 15 | 20 |
| 1970 | 1 | 9 | 12 |
| 1974 | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| 1978 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 1982 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 1986 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 1990 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 1994 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 1998 | 1 | 5 | 12 |
| Total | 53 | 92 | 160 |

1 Thailand

| | G | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1951 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1954 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1958 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1962 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 1966 | 12 | 13 | 11 |
| 1970 | 9 | 17 | 13 |
| 1974 | | | |
| 1976 | 11 | 11 | 20 |
| 1982 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 1986 | 2 | 10 | 13 |
| 1990 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| 1994 | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| 1998 | 24 | 26 | 40 |
| Total | 67 | 104 | 136 |

3 Indonesia

| | G | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1951 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 1954 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 1958 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 1962 | 6 | 8 | 18 |
| 1966 | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| 1970 | 2 | 5 | 17 |
| 1974 | | | |
| 1978 | 8 | 7 | 18 |
| 1982 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| 1986 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 1990 | 3 | 6 | 21 |
| 1994 | 3 | 12 | 11 |
| 1998 | 6 | 10 | 11 |
| Total | 40 | 63 | 129 |

5 Singapore

| | G | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1951 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 1954 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 1958 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1962 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1966 | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| 1970 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| 1974 | | | |
| 1976 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 1982 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 1986 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 1990 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 1994 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 1998 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 13 | 28 | 51 |

Sources: People Daily Corp. webpage retrieved 8-12-02, http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/features/Asiad/history.html; Philippine Sports Commission

Thailand has been lording it over other Southeast Asian countries since 1966 in terms of the number of gold medals won in the Asian Games. In the Bangkok Games in 1998. Thailand also accomplished a first, winning 24 gold medals. M.R. Cuclo, PDI Research

# American swimmer 1st female to break 1-minute barrier

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—American Natalie Coughlin broke the 100 meter backstroke world record at the United States Swim Championships on Tuesday becoming the first female to break the one minute barrier.

Coughlin's time of 59.58sec beat China's Cihong He's eight year old mark of 1min 00.16sec.

"I was glad I finally did it," Coughlin said. "Breaking the world record has been in the back of my mind, and I knew I could do it tonight."

The 19-year-old Coughlin became the first American to hold the world record since Catherine Ferguson in 1966.

Coughlin's record in the 100m backstroke was the ninth world record broken at the Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex, and the first since 1991.

"It takes a lot of pressure off," Coughlin said. "I'm glad people had such confidence in me to say, 'When's 59 going to happen'.

"They were saying that a year ago, when one minute was new to me. Now I can just relax and enjoy the rest of the meet.

"My coach told me I am now a part of swimming trivia," she said. "People can break records, but they can never take that distinction away from me."

Expectations were high in other races. Nate Dusing stole the title in the 200m freestyle out from under some of America's top swimmers, including Klete Keller, Michael Phelps, Chad Carvin and Scott Goldblatt.

Dusing, 23, started so fast that his first 50m split was ahead of world record pace. He was able to hold on and finish with a time of 1:47.08, a meet record.

"I looked at my competition, and I knew they were all good at the 400," Dusing said. "I know how to use my speed to get ahead, and I was just praying I could hold on."

In the 100m back, Aaron Peirsol, 19, beat Lenny Krayzelburg. His time of 54.01 was just .47 seconds faster than Krayzelburg.

"This certainly wasn't an easy field," Peirsol said. "I just tried to hold on. I don't think I kicked it up another gear. The 100 is a longer race than I expected."

In other races, Kristy Kowal won the 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:08.53. Four of the top eight finalists in that event finished within 32-hundredths of a second of each other.

Ed Moses won the men's 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:01.11, edging Brendan Hansen, who finished second in a 1:01.43.

Moses has been eyeing the world record for some time, but fell more than a second short on Tuesday. *AFP*

# Bosco Nike champ

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Heavy favorite Don Bosco Academy beat Pampanga High School in overtime, 14-13, to capture the Inaugural Nike 3 on 3 Pampanga leg at the SM City here last Saturday.

Don Bosco leaned on the heroics of Jorge Sabeliano, who scored the winning baskets.

The other members of the Don Bosco team are Charles Mendoza, Franco Francisco and Rowel Balboa, with Greg Bugayong as coach.

Don Bosco will join the champions of Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Metro Manila in the Nike 3 on 3 National Finals on Sept. 1 at the Alabang Town Center.

The Nike 3 on 3 will have its final elimination leg in Baguio on Friday, Aug. 16, at the University of Baguio Gym, where 20 teams led by defending champion University of St. Louis Philex will compete.

High endurance, Gatorade, Absolute Distilled Drinking Water, Toby's, Olympic Village, Olympic World, Royal Sporting House, Robinson's Department Store, SM Department Store and SM Supermalls are the meet's sponsors.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Warner Productions beat Athletic Club, 93-69, to bag the 1992 YKL Color-Philippines Integrated Chinese Athletic Association (Picaa) junior basketball plum at the FEU gym. Also today in 1993, Ramon Allado fired a net 10-under-par 62 to capture the Class C title in the 13th leg of the Johnnie Walker Golf Series at Davao's Apo Golf club.

# Filipino tracksters aim to end medal drought in Asian Games

By Edwin Villanueva

BUENAVISTA

**EDUARDO Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan will stand at the vanguard of a crack Philippine athletics team aiming to end a long medal drought in the Asian Games slated Sept. 29-Oct. 14.**

Eleven other tracksters are making up the squad which athletics chief Go Teng Kok described as the "best in the land today."

Buenavista will compete in his favorite 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5,000m run while Bulauitan sees action in the sprints in a bid to duplicate, if not surpass, her recent silver medal effort in the Asian Championships in Sri Lanka.

Joining the two in the lineup are John Loxada (800m), Asian Championships bronze winner Marestella Torres (long jump), Ernie Candelario (400), Allan Ballester, Roy Vence and Cristabel Martes (marathon), Joebert Delicano (long jump), Sean Guevarra (high jump) and 4X400 runners Jimar Aing, Rodrigo Tanuan and Ronnie Marfil.

"The team is made up of the best in the land today. The Asiad is one tough campaign for them but we believe they will do their very best," said Go, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

Also in the Patafa lineup are national coaches Mario Castro, Isidro del Prado, Dario de Rosas, Alex Ligtas and Romeo Gido with Beatriz Sallador as team manager.

"I cannot make a prediction now but, knowing my athletes, they will be fighting for every medal in the Asian Games," added Go.

The last time the Philippines brought home a medal in the Asian Games was in 1994 in Hiroshima when the now retired Elma Muros-Posadas won a bronze in the long jump.

In 1994, only four were picked to compete in athletics, while Elma was the lone bet in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

AP

**HINGIS RETURNS**

Martina Hingis returns a shot to Magui Serna of Spain during their second round match in the Rogers AT&T Cup in Montreal, Canada on Tuesday. Hingis, back in harness after an ankle surgery last May 20, won, 6-4, 6-3. Top seed Serena Williams withdrew from the meet due to an acute tendonitis in her left knee. In Washington, Andre Agassi whipped Noam Okun of Israel, 6-2, 6-2, to reach the third round of the Legg Mason Classic, while in Indianapolis, Lleyton Hewitt downed Sweden's Magnus Norman, 7-6, 6-3, to enter the third round of the RCA Championship.

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# Jao humbles G. Prix rivals

ROSARIO, Batangas—Shell Advance's Jolet Jao bounced back with another big sweep while Shell Racing's Mandy Borja and Joel Retuya again split Formula Toyota Cup honors last weekend in the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The multi-titled Jao flashed his usual deadly form as he packed speed from the start to pull away from the rest of the field in the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series sanctioned by the National Sports and Safety Association and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Ver Angelo.

Proving he's the best big bike rider in the land, Jao was already one kilometer ahead of his closest rival Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati Manila as early as the third lap and even jacked it up by posting the fastest time of 1:42.319 in the next lap.

Alberto finished runner-up in both races. RS Racing's Rod Scott finished third in the first race while Jeff Andres of JA Rapid Bike and Petron Blaze-Metzeler's Wacky del Rosario wound up fourth and fifth.

In the second race, Andres finished third place after Scott suffered engine problems. Del Rosario finished fourth while Randy Ortiz checked in fifth.

# Cebu launches sports squad

GUARDO

THE CEBU City Sports Commission (CCSC) is moving a notch higher in its bid to produce world-class athletes with its recent launch of Team Cebu City.

CCSC Chair Jonathan Guardo said the program aims to produce an elite team of world-class athletes that will represent Cebu City in local, regional and national sporting competitors.

Team Cebu City will focus on the recruitment and development of athletes in disciplines which have been the city's source of pride not only in local but international competitions as well.

"We want to develop more athletes that will give honors to Cebu City. These athletes will also become the country's pride in international competitions," said Guardo.

Expressing their full support to the program are the CCSC commissioners Jay Aldeguer, Nimrod Quiñones, Rolly Diorico and Calixto Pacuiao and councilor Jack Jakosalem, the chair of the city council's committee on Games and Sports.

Guardo is also thankful to the all-out backing of the city government headed by Cebu City mayor Tomas Osmeña and vice mayor Mike Rama.

# Osaka-Lhuillier dribblers win

OSAKA Iridology-M. Lhuillier demolished LGU Cantilan, 122-90, for its second win in the elimination round of the Cebu Basketball League Cantilan Fiesta Challenge in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.

Typifying its dominance in offense, six Iridologists scored in doubles figures with Jun delos Santos leading the way with 24 points.

Providing him ample support were Whitey Almonte who had 21, former PBA import and long-time Cebu resident Darryl Smith who had 17, Jojo Maglasang 16, John Toumaquin 13, and Gabriel Maloloy-on 10.

Cantilan, with Villamor and Jerry Tundag at the forefront, gave Osaka-M. Lhuillier a tough fight in the first quarter but slowly crumbled in the face of Osaka's hot shooting and running game.

Almonte's three triples broke the game wide open as Osaka closed the first half with a 55-39 lead.

In the other game, Carrascal dealt Madrid its second straight loss following a 77-67 beating.

# Letran trips PCU in overtime

By June Navarro

| Standings | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| CSB | 9 | 1 |
| PCU | 7 | 3 |
| SSC | 6 | 2 |
| JRU | 5 | 3 |
| Letran | 4 | 5 |
| Mapua | 3 | 6 |
| San Beda | 1 | 8 |
| UPHR | 1 | 8 |

**GAMES TOMORROW**
*(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs SSC (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

**LETRAN College outlasted Philippine Christian University in overtime, 83-73, to keep its Final Four bid alive last night in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.**

The Knights leaned on Ronjay Enrile and Jonathan Aldave as they evaded an early exit and jacked up their standings to 4-5.

Enrile, who finished with 23 points, sent the rollercoaster match into overtime after scoring five straight points in the final minute of regulation while Aldave pumped in eight of his 12 points in the extension.

Letran coach Louie Alas, however, heaped a lot of praises on Kristoffer Reyes and Dale Santos, whose fearless plays exceeded expectations.

Earlier, the Blazers clinched a Final Four seat after scorching the San Beda Red Lions, 85-78, for their third straight win.

The Blazers improved their standings at 9-1 while the Red Lions dropped to 1-8 in a tie with UPHR Altas.

Meanwhile, the NCAA Management Committee yesterday issued stern warnings to the players and team officials involved in the Mapua-College of St. Benilde clash on Monday.

**LETRAN 83**—Enrile 23, Aldave 12, Sillona 10, Reyes 10, Santos 9, Rodriguez 8, Aban 7, Bautista 3, Ang 1, Ebajay 0, Anabo 0.

**PCU 73**—Soriano 27, Franco 17, Roque 11, Gementiza 8, Dais 5, Senining 3, Gaspi 2, Legayada 0, Hawk 0, Guiyab 0, Acraman 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 34-31, 50-52, 65-all, 83-73.

# Tenpin kegfest Aug. 18

METRO East Tenpin Bowling Club (METBC) marks its first anniversary by holding an 8-game singles tournament on Aug. 18 at the Q-Plaza Bowling Center along Felix Avenue in Cainta.

Cash prizes amounting to more than P215,000 will be up for grabs with the men's and ladies' champions winning P40,000 and P15,000, respectively, plus a trophy each.

A cash prize of P100,000 and a ring will go to the bowler who rolls a perfect 300 game.

Proceeds from the one-day kegfest will go to the club's free bowling clinic for the youth.

City, will actually turn one year old on Aug. 22.

# Espiritu Cup resumes

CEBU's M. Lhuillier and M-L Kuarta Padala make their debut in the 4th Danny Espiritu Invitational Open Cup basketball tournament against separate rivals today at the Lyceum gym.

Lhuillier faces Pasay-Peewee Trinidad at 7 p.m. while Kuarta Pada goes up against unbeaten frontrunner Hartman Seigle at 8:30.

Coach Eddie Ybanez's Kuarta Padala team will be bannered by Bruce Dacia, Champion Canoneo, James Laygo, Richard Caliao, Cris Ferraren, Danny Aying, Bitos Omolon, Donking Sasuma and Jessie Lumantay.

Coach Yayoy Alcoseba's Lhuillier squad boasts Selby Jaca, Mike Manigo, Cid White, Henry Fernandez, Whitey Almonte, Woodrew Enriquez, Aldrich Reyes and Egay Echavez.

Meanwhile, Hartman Seigle banked on the heroics of former PBA stars Pido Jarencio and Samboy Lim to nip Wangs, 74-73, and improve its record to 5-0,while Homer Mercado downed Forward Taguig, 80-77,for its third win in five games.

First game:

**H. MERCADO 80**—Conmigo 14, Daygo 12, Medenilla 12, Habelito 8, Nobleza 8, Torrente 7, Andaya 6, Lomboy 6, Limbo 2, Aguas 2, Baltazar 2

**TAGUIG 77**—Cahanding 26, Victoria 19, Macanig 12, Magsalin 10, Baluyot 4, Guro 3, Pizzaro 2, Santos 1.

Halftime: 36-all

Second game:

**HARTMAN 74**—Jarencion 24, Lim 18, Mendoza 9, Medina 7, Pinat 5, Reducto 2, Gamboa 2, Navarro 2, Casera 2.

**WANGS 73**—Gaco 24, Newton 9, Igloru 8, Gican 8, Alcaraz 7, De Jesus 6, Piodo 4, Yu 4, Garcia 3.

Halftime: 36-43.

# Negros breeders support students

THE GAME Fowl Breeders Association of Negros (GFBAN) hosted the officers and staff of Thunderbird Gamefowl Feeds and Veterinary Products when the undisputed market leader launched its latest product, Bexan XP, recently.

Headed by its president, multi-awarded breeder Otec Geroso and vice president Allan Calunsad, GF-Ban gladly welcomed the Thunderbird delegation with its more than 200 members in attendance during the GFBAN general assembly last Aug. 10.

During the meeting, it was announced that GFBAN will give financial assistance to 10 deserving high school students whose parents are game bird farm workers.

"As long as these students are able to maintain an average grade of 85 percent, they will continuously receive their allowances," Geroso said.

Otec also mentioned that GF-BAN's annual stag derby which is sponsored by Thunderbird, will be held on Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 2 at the Negros Coliseum which he also operates. Legbanding within Negros starts on Aug. 15 to be conducted by four separate teams headed by Geroso, Itoy Sison, Joe Laureno and Dante Hilo and Allan Locasan.

At the meeting, Dr. Ritz Capili led the introduction of Bexan XP which is a product specially formulated for fighting cocks. Dr. Capili noted that "XP means extreme power and extreme performance."

## RACING TIPS

### At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

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Race 2—1. Reign Supreme/Real Tough 2. Ounce of Gold 3. King Philip 4. Speed Mountain 5. Torch Singer

Race 3—1. Dimasupil 2. Rolex 3. Silakbo

Race 4—1. San Diego Force 2. Bulakeña 3. Strong Element 4. Fair Ringer 5. Cash McCall

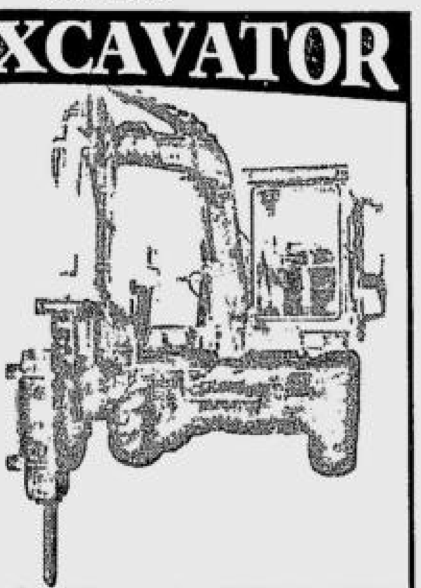
Race 5—1. Pay Check 2. Regal Mischief 3. Spectacular Queen

Race 6—1. Go Ichi 2. Advance Party 3. Perfect Gift 4. Hotrod

Race 7—1. Adam's Call 2. Divine Diva 3. Picture Perfect 4. Sensational 5. Renegade

Race 8—1. Might and Power 2. Terrific 3. High Pocket 4. Desert Deb

Race 9—1. Diabolo Don 2. Court General 3. Super Dancer 4. House Conquest 5. Winning Rose 6. King of Arabia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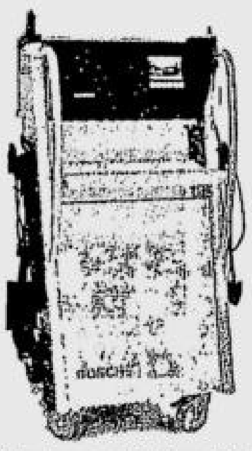
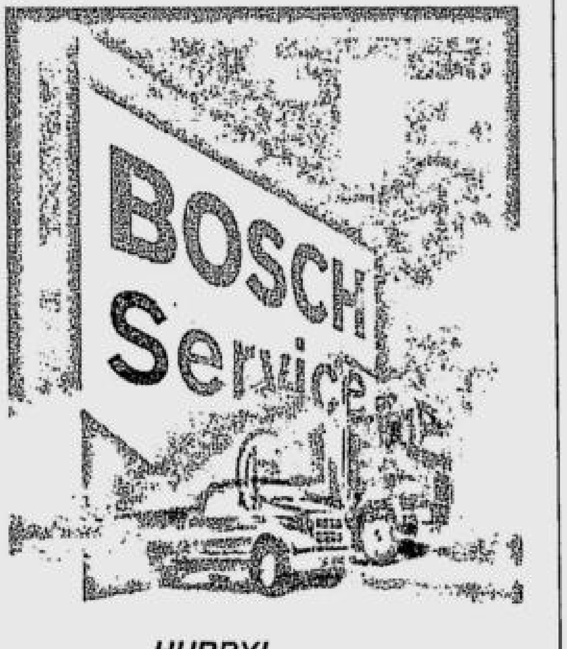
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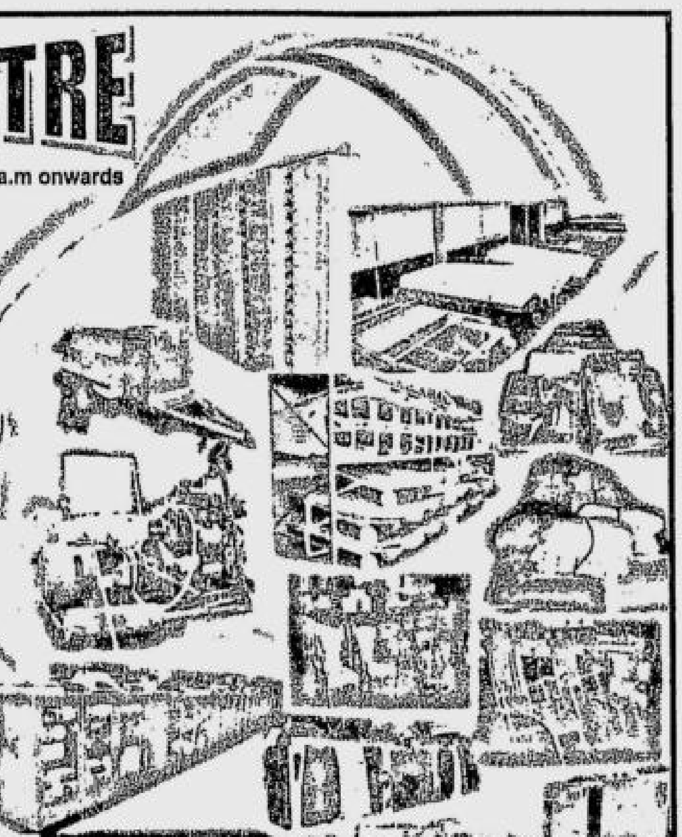
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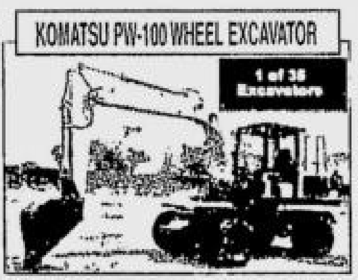

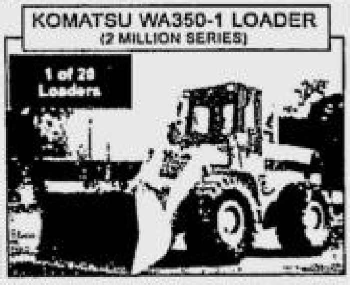
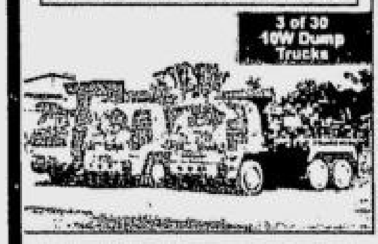

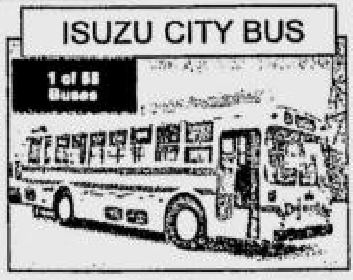
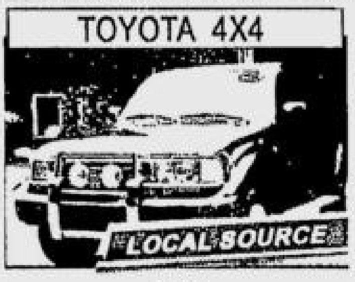
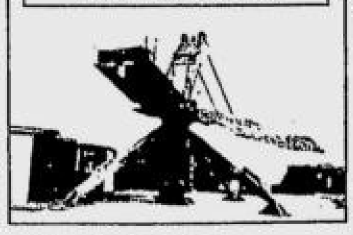

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# Golfers tipped to win gold in Busan Asiad

**By Al S. Mendoza**
*Sports Editor*

**IN WHAT is considered the toughest golf team yet assembled in recent memory, the Philippines will field the country's top players for the Busan Asian Games next month.**

Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Marlon Dizon, Juvic Pagunsan and Cookie La'O will compose the squad that is heavily tipped to sweep both gold medals in individual and team play.

Que recently swept all the majors of amateur golf, including the Philippine Open low amateur honors. Pagunsan is fresh from his SEA Games gold medal victory last year in Kuala Lumpur.

Delariarte has been proving himself consistently as Que's strongest opponent for local's major plums. Dizon and La'O are veteran internationalists.

Dizon, a product of the San Diego World Juniors, was a hero for the Philippines' shining moment in the Brunei SEA Games in 1999.

La'O has been a national player for almost five years now. Like Que, he saw action in the Chile World Championships in 1998.

Roger Retuerto, the noted mentor of the legendary Frankie Miñoza, will coach the squad.

The women's team will most likely include Heidi Chua, Lora Roberto, Aileen Rose Yao and Carmelette Villaroman. The 1998 Bangkok Asiad team included Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales, who are now among the hottest campaigners in the U.S. LPGA. They salvaged the team bronze medal in Bangkok in the company of Ria Quiazon.

The country's first gold medal in golf was won by Ramon Brobio, who rallied mightily in the last round of the 1986 Asian Games to beat a Korean who is almost twice his age.

Brobio, now a professional, was only 15 when he pocketed the gold in Seoul.

The Philippines' best finish after that was a silver won by Gerald Rosales in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. The RP Team of Rosales, Que, La'O and Rhey Luna also snatched the team silver in the four-to-play, three-to-count format.

Jake Ayson, executive director of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the NGAP requested the Philippine Sports Commission to support the RP Team's visit to the Dye-designed course in Busan before the Asiad.

The course is open to Asiad competitors from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15.

"After that, participants can practice at the course two days before the start of competitions," said Ayson.

Both teams headed by NGAP president Rod Feliciano and secretary general Benny Gopez will leave for Busan on Sept. 26. The golf tournament is on Oct. 3-6.

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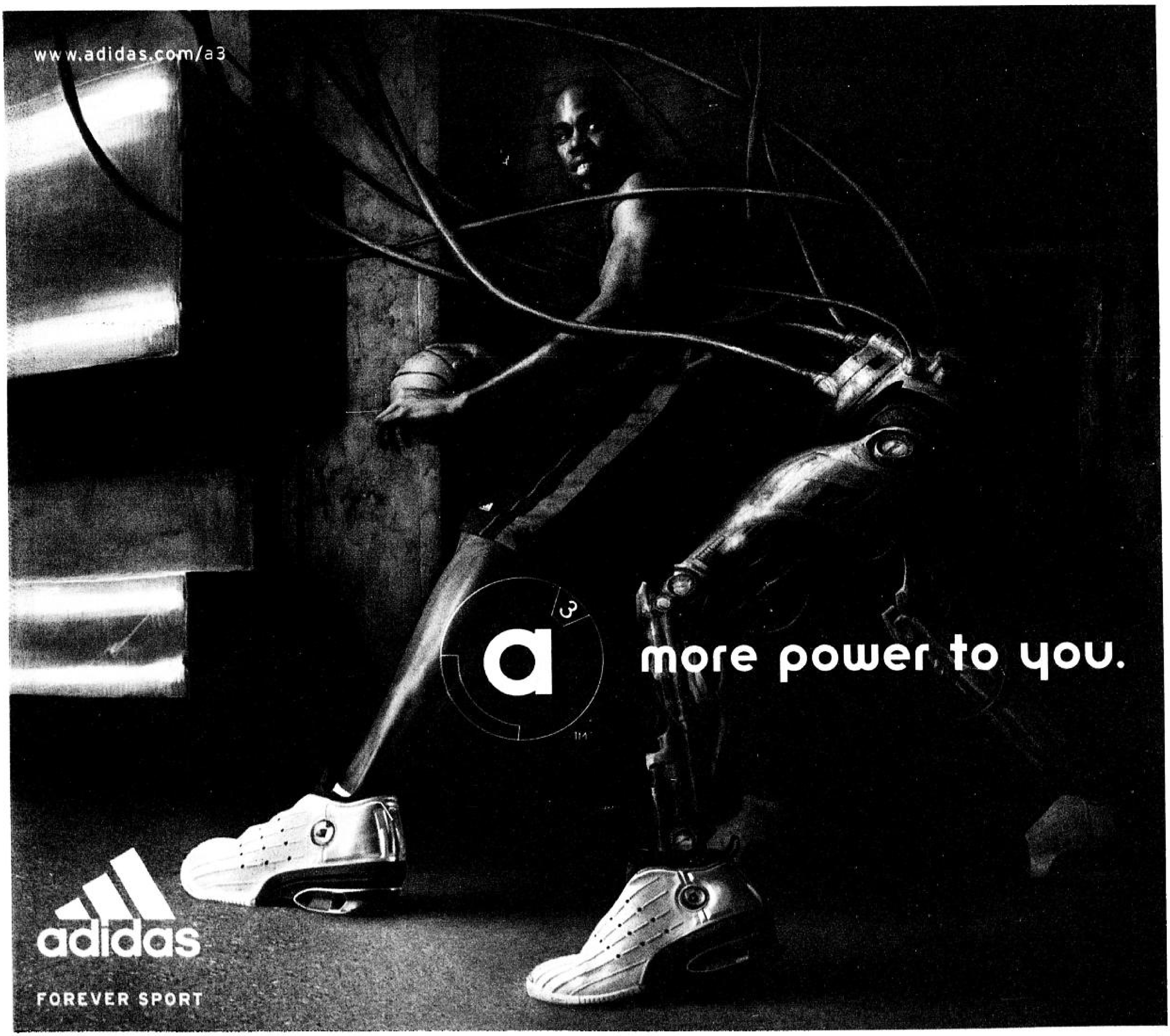

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### 31 hurt in Slex accident

AT LEAST 31 people were injured when a passenger bus hit a tanker on the South Luzon Expressway yesterday morning. Most of the victims were pinned under the wreckage of a Jam Transit bus (DVX-351) which overturned at around 10:45 a.m. in the Cabuyao section of the expressway. *C. Esguerra*

# METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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# DOJ drops Lacson's libel vs Inquirer

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

CITING insufficient evidence, the justice department has dismissed Senator Panfilo M. Lacson's libel suit which he filed against the INQUIRER in connection with a series of articles that appeared last year in Ramon Tulfo's column, "On Target."

"This department holds that there is no sufficient evidence, constitutive of probable cause, to charge respondents with the offense of libel," said a Department of Justice resolution signed by Justice undersecretary Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez on July 31.

The DOJ resolution reversed and set aside a Feb. 28 resolution of the Makati City Prosecutors Office ordering the indictment of INQUIRER publisher Isagani M. Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, news editor Artemio Engracia, Metro editor Louie Camino, columnists Tulfo and Recah Trinidad, reporters Carlito Pablo and Christine Herrera, and military intelligence chief Victor Corpus.

Lacson said the articles, which appeared in Tulfo's column from July 12 to 31 last year, "vilified him" and portrayed him, "as a criminal, torturer, murderer, liar, and a very corrupt public official, thereby eroding and damaging (his) integrity and reputation as a public servant."

The articles dealt with Lacson's alleged involvement in the the murder of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito, the disappearance of Edgar Bentain, the reported execution of members of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate, and the senator's stint in the defunct Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group, among others.

Lacson's suit also stemmed from the

DOJ/ p. A24

# 4 killed in Caloocan bungalow blast

**By Tina Santos**

FOUR persons were killed and eight others were injured when high-grade explosives blew up a residential house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan yesterday afternoon.

The victims were identified as Domingo Torrechiva, 49, driver, and his brother-in-law Ricardo Cabelin, 25.

Police have yet to determine the identities of two other fatalities, one of whom was a female, and those who were injured by the blast.

The eight unidentified victims who sustained severe injuries are now confined at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Initial investigation revealed that the incident happened at around 3:15 p.m. inside the bungalow residence of Torrechiva at Phase 8-A, Package 10, Block 153, Lot 2 Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Residents said they heard two successive explosions coming from the house of Torrechiva.

Police were still conducting follow-up investigation to determine the cause of the blast.

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# Governor tagged in slay of girl, 14

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE a former Sorsogon mayor tagged the governor of his province as a suspect in the reported abduction and killing of his 14-year-old niece, the chief of the Southern Police District yesterday ordered probers to "backtrack" in their investigation of the slain girl, after another family claimed the body that was recovered on Bagong Paraiso Road in Muntinlupa Monday.

Leovic Dioneda, mayor of Bacon town for nine years, yesterday urged police to investigate Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee and his wife Sandy, incumbent mayor of Sorsogon City, saying they could be behind the killing of his niece, Clarissa Dioneda Martin.

"The killing could be politically motivated and the couple might have something to do with it," Dioneda yesterday said in a telephone interview.

The ex-mayor said the killing of his niece could be the result of his long-running rift with the Lees. Last year, he filed an election protest against Sandy Lee after he lost the mayoral race in Sorsogon City.

But Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPD director, yesterday cautioned Muntinlupa policemen to go slow and review their investigation of the slain girl.

"It appears that the girl found in Muntinlupa was not Dioneda's niece but the relative of another family," he told the INQUIRER.

Gutierrez also ordered his men to investigate Victoria Lyn, who had claimed that the slain girl was her sister Clarissa and that four armed men snatched the victim in front of the Philtranco bus terminal on Edsa in Pasay City Sunday night.

"At this point, we don't know if there was indeed an abduction, more so, the killing of a certain Clarissa Dioneda Martin," he said. "We're not even sure if there's such a girl."

Leovic Dioneda said the 14-year-old victim was his distant relative, a Filipino-American from Barangay Sto. Niño in Bacon, where he claimed "60 percent" of residents there are related to him.

He said the kidnappers probably mistook Martin for his brother's 16-year-old daughter Sharon, who is studying at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

At the height of the May elections last year, Dioneda said armed men shot and killed one of his cousins in Sorsogon.

## UP high class of '70

ALL Philippine-based members of UP High School Class 1970 are invited to a reunion to be held at the A Taste of LA Cafe & Restaurant, 171 Don Alejandro Roces Avenue (near the corner of Tomas Morato), Quezon City, on Aug. 18, 2002. Registration starts at 9 a.m. A teleconference facility will be set up to connect with batchmates now based in the United States who will also hold their own reunion simultaneously in Los Angeles, California. Batchmates now based in Australia will make connections as well from Sydney.

For more details, please get in touch with Erlito Fider at 888-0999, or Romeo Candazo at 0919-6799352, or Sally Jose Laxamana at 0917-5263473, 632-3675 or 843-8040. Inquiries may also be e-mailed to UPHS1970@yahoogroups.com or visit http://yahoo.com/group/UPHS1970/

## Assumption alumnae hold meet

A SPECIAL meeting of members of the Assumption Alumnae Association Inc. will be held today, Aug. 15, at 6 p.m. at the covered court (gym) of the Assumption campus in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. A mass in celebration of the Feast of the Assumption to be held at the chapel of Assumption San Lorenzo at 5 p.m., will precede the meeting.

Registration shall start at 4 p.m. at the information office in front of the chapel. Members are required to bring any form of identification, such as driver's license, passport, company ID, voter's ID or TIN card to facilitate registration.

# A congenital liar

**ON TARGET**
*Ramon Tulfo*

LAST week, a broadsheet reported that a brother of a prosecution witness in the plunder case against deposed President Erap charged Justice Secretary Hernando Perez of having received P40 million for excluding an accused in the corruption trial at the Sandiganbayan.

Henry Ocier, brother of Belle Resources Corp. executive Willie Ng Ocier, said in a sworn statement he got the information from lawyer Vicente Chuidian, his brother's attorney.

Ocier even said that Chuidian made the statement in the presence of this writer and Luisito "Cito" Beltran, ABS-CBN radio-TV commentator.

***

Either Ocier is a congenital liar or he's mentally and psychology unbalanced. Either way, he should have his head examined.

I was in that meeting between Ocier and Vince Chuidian, a close friend, to thresh out his feud with his wife, Sandra del Carvalho-Ocier. So was Cito Beltran, who asked for the meeting.

At no time did Chuidian mention anything about Secretary Perez, or anybody else for that matter, receiving money from anybody.

***

Ocier was probably hallucinating. He looked like he was "high" on drugs when that meeting took place two months ago at the Via Mare restaurant on the top floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Ortigas Center.

Ocier had sought Beltran's help to try to convince me to stop helping his estranged wife. Ms De Carvalho-Ocier had sought my help to stop the Bureau of Immigration from deporting her. A Brazilian, she married Ocier in the Philippines in 1994.

Her marriage to Henry Ocier soured for one reason or another. Don't ask me why, because I am not in the business of asking couples why their marriages failed.

***

Apparently using his family's wealth and connections, Ocier filed deportation proceedings against his estranged wife.

Immigration agents were going after her when she ran to me crying. I referred her to Vince Chuidian.

Not only did Chuidian defend her from being deported, he also filed civil cases against Ocier seeking financial support for his ex-wife and to allow her to see their children.

***

I am very sure Ocier wanted to get back at Chuidian because he couldn't convince my lawyer-friend to drop the cases against him.

Chuidian, who believes in chivalry, is extending free legal services to Ocier's estranged wife. De Carvalho-Ocier has no money to pay for a good lawyer.

Ocier apparently wanted Chuidian and Nani Perez to have a tiff. Somebody probably informed him that Vince and the justice secretary are compadres.

***

St. Luke's Hospital cardiologist Franklin Garin Avellaneda was killed in cold blood by three University of the Philippines students inside the UP-Los Baños campus.

The suspects, Kissinger Brion Kraft, Mark Alba and Rolando Rivera are scions of prominent families in Laguna.

Dr. Avellaneda was robbed of P20,000 in cash before he was handcuffed and stabbed and shot by his assailants. Avellaneda's companion, Edmundo Dayag, was also attacked but he survived.

***

Any lawyer with an average IQ will tell you that the crime committed against Avellaneda was robbery with homicide, a non-bailable offense.

But how come Rodel Paderayon, the prosecutor handling the case, downgraded the offense to plain homicide, a bailable offense?

Prosecutor Paderayon, you have a lot of explaining to do!

***

Whenever anti-gambling advocates want to make it hard for the government, they zero in on the government-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). Pagcor is always the whipping boy.

Now, they're questioning Pagcor's plan to go into a partnership with private firms to set up slot machine arcades.

Pagcor, the third highest revenue earner next to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, is trying to help the government partly meet its revenue collection target. One of its revenue generation programs is the putting up of slot machines in selected places outside its casinos.

***

Here are some pieces of important information the citizenry should know about Pagcor so it can judge whether the government gaming firm's existence is justified or not:

Pagcor earns an average gross income of P1.7 billion a month.

Of the gross monthly income, 50 percent goes to the National Treasury; five percent goes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue; five percent goes to the country's sports development through the Philippine Sports Commission; one percent goes to the Department of Justice to pay for the legal services of poor court litigants.

***

Pagcor also contributes to the President's social fund in the amount of P100 million a month.

The gaming firm also gives away millions of pesos to government hospitals to treat indigent heart patients. It has also set aside a certain amount for thousands of poor kidney patients who need dialysis.

A little known fact about Pagcor: It has minimized crime on the C-5 highway after it installed street lights recently.

Another not-so-publicized deed of Pagcor: They support Jaime Cardinal Sin's charitable projects and organizations, like the Caritas Manila.

# DOJ drops Lacson's libel ...

From p. A23

Aug. 5, 2001 INQUIRER story, "Military chief says Lacson has billions in dollars," which detailed Lacson's alleged dollar accounts in the US, Canada and Hong Kong. Lacson said reporters Herrera and Pablo got their story "from a polluted source," referring to Corpus.

In reversing the Makati prosecutor's findings, Gutierrez said Lacson failed to prove that there was "actual malice" or "criminal liability."

The Makati Prosecutors Office earlier ruled that there was sufficient evidence to charge respondents with libel, and dismissed Corpus' countercharge for lack of evidence.

But Gutierrez believed otherwise and described the respondents' appeal as "meritorious."

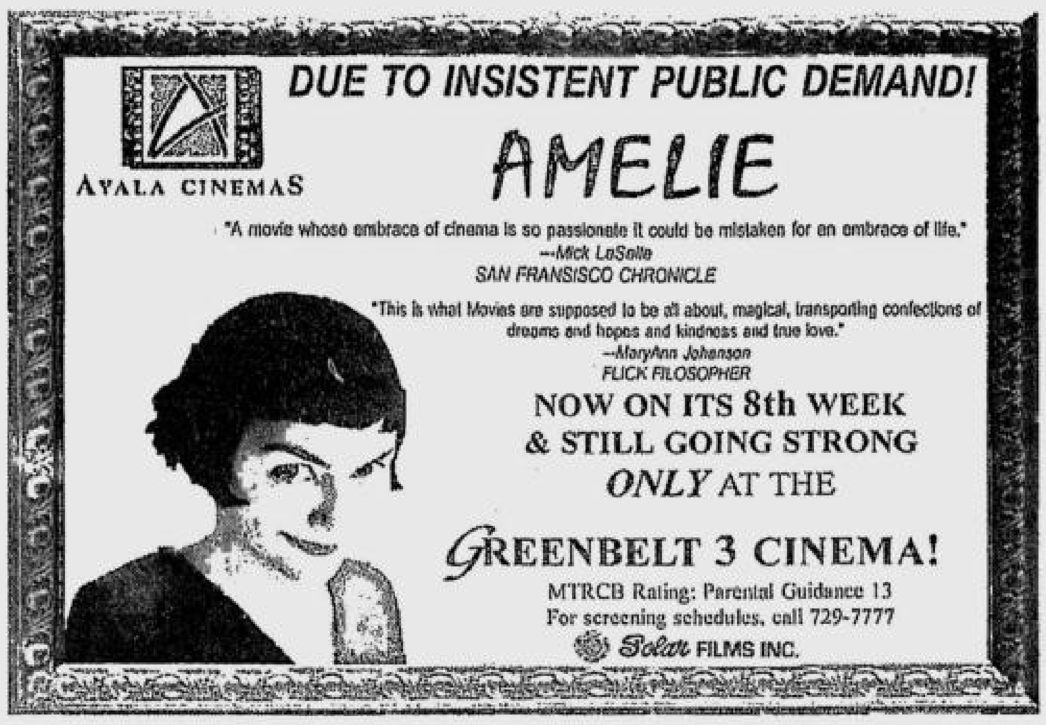
In an 8-page resolution, Gutierrez pointed out that "the article complained of is not actionable, and the plaintiff would have to establish proof that it contains false allegations or that the commentaries therein were based on false suppositions."

"It is not, to put it in another way, for the accused to establish good motives of truthfulness," she said. "To shift to the accused the burden of showing the truth of the allegations of official misconduct ... would, in essence, infringe upon the freedom of expression."

Gutierrez stressed that Tulfo, Herrera and Pablo, for the most part, qualified their commentaries and utterances with reference to what they had gathered from their sources.

She said this was "indicative" of a lack of a personal motivation to "heap untruthful and damaging information about the public, as well, as private life of the complainant."

She stressed that Tulfo rested his commentaries and opinions from his sources, while Pablo and Herrera, "did not comport themselves, in the course of their reports, with actual malice."



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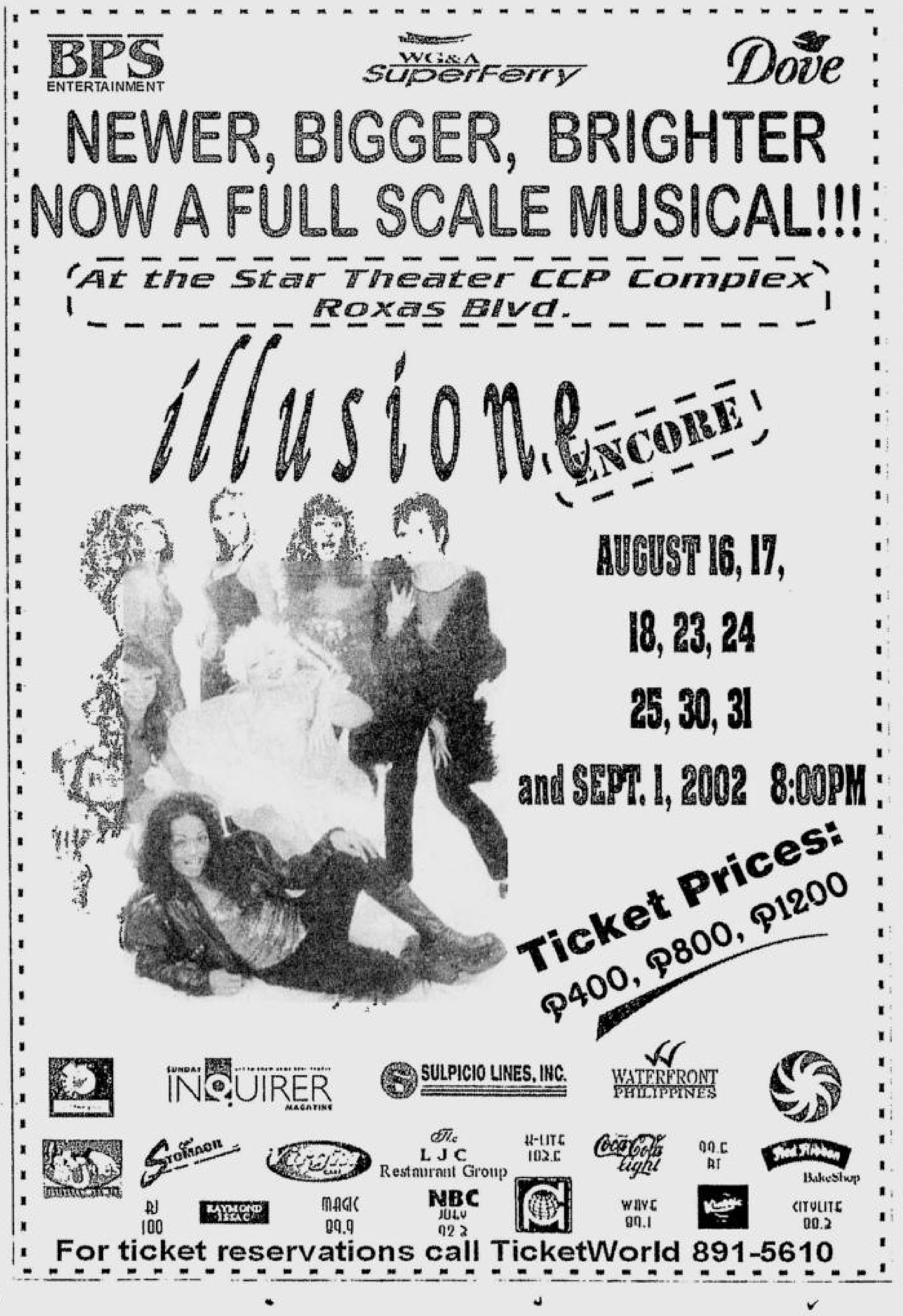

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# No settlement in rape try charge vs Nikko GM

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's General Manager yesterday met face-to-face with the physical therapist who had charged him with attempted rape and sexual harassment.

The complainant also submitted yesterday her reply to Japanese national Chiyuki Fujimoto's counter-affidavit, wherein he claimed that no attempt to rape the therapist took place as there was no resistance on her part, and that the complainant may have been driven by other motives.

In her reply, the therapist said Fujimoto never gave his side of the story and only attacked the inconsistencies in her statement. She said the executive never denied her allegations that he stroked her thighs and buttocks, pulled her toward him and told her that he wants to sleep with her.

"Respondent merely made sweeping accusations against the herein complainant," the therapist said.

In his counter-affidavit, Fujimoto had said that he did not force or harm the victim and the circumstances she described are not characteristic of attempted rape because the victim was able to slip out of Fujimoto's grasp when he allegedly grabbed her.

The complainant said in response that people react differently to similar situations, saying there is no standard form of behavior when responding to shocking situations.

Fujimoto had also said that based on the points he made, the victim's sincerity and candor are suspicious. He had also accused the complainant of having other motives for filing the case, which he also called a "transparent ploy to malign the respondent."

In reply, the complainant said she has no other motive aside from wanting to seek redress for Fujimoto's acts.

"Complainant stands to gain nothing in filing this case except the vindication of her honor as a woman and as a human being," the therapist said.

Ruby Carillo, public relations consultant of Dusit Hotel Nikko, said the management would never settle with the complainant because they believe they are the ones who are telling the truth.

The complainant also issued a similar statement, declaring yesterday that she would see the case through and would never agree to settle. She said the prosecutor had asked her and Fujimoto if the two of them could settle the issue between them.

# 4 women ROTC cadets cry rape

## *One of the complainants claims she was 'fingered'*

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

THERE seems no end to scandals hounding the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program.

After the program was revised following the gruesome murder of cadet Mark Chua last year, militant students yesterday called for the ROTC's abolition over allegations that four women cadets of the Lyceum of the Philippines-Manila were sexually abused.

"Our fears have been validated. ROTC, by any other name, remains a haven of crooks, murderers, and sexual offenders," said Raymond Palatino, National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) national president.

The ROTC has been Renamed National Service Training Program (NSTP) but NUSP and Abolish Network-NCR members picketed the Lyceum around noon yesterday to call for the program's abolition.

"We commend the courage of these women students who stood up for their rights in filing this case against the Lyceum ROTC officer," Palatino said.

"However emboldened in joining the ROTC as cadet officers, these women suffered physical molestation, emotional and psychological distress, and taunting intimidation in expressing their grievances against the corps," he added.

One of the four victims, all aged 17, has even backed out of their joint complaint against the abusive officer due to harassment, said Cristina Palabay, NUSP secretary general.

She said a "junior officer" separately harassed the college freshmen—cadet officers' candidate course (COCC) members—last month.

The abuse allegedly happened during weekends inside the ROTC office, Palabay said.

"There was necking and petting. The officer even inserted his finger into (the sex organ) of one of the victims," she added.

The cadets filed a complaint with the Lyceum's office of student affairs but the school had "no sexual harassment policy," Palabay said.

"That in itself is a violation. So the victims filed a case against the officer in court," she said.

She added that Manila Prosecutor's Office is now conducting a preliminary investigation on the case.

Palabay said that, under the NSTP, all female college freshmen, starting this semester, are required to take the program.

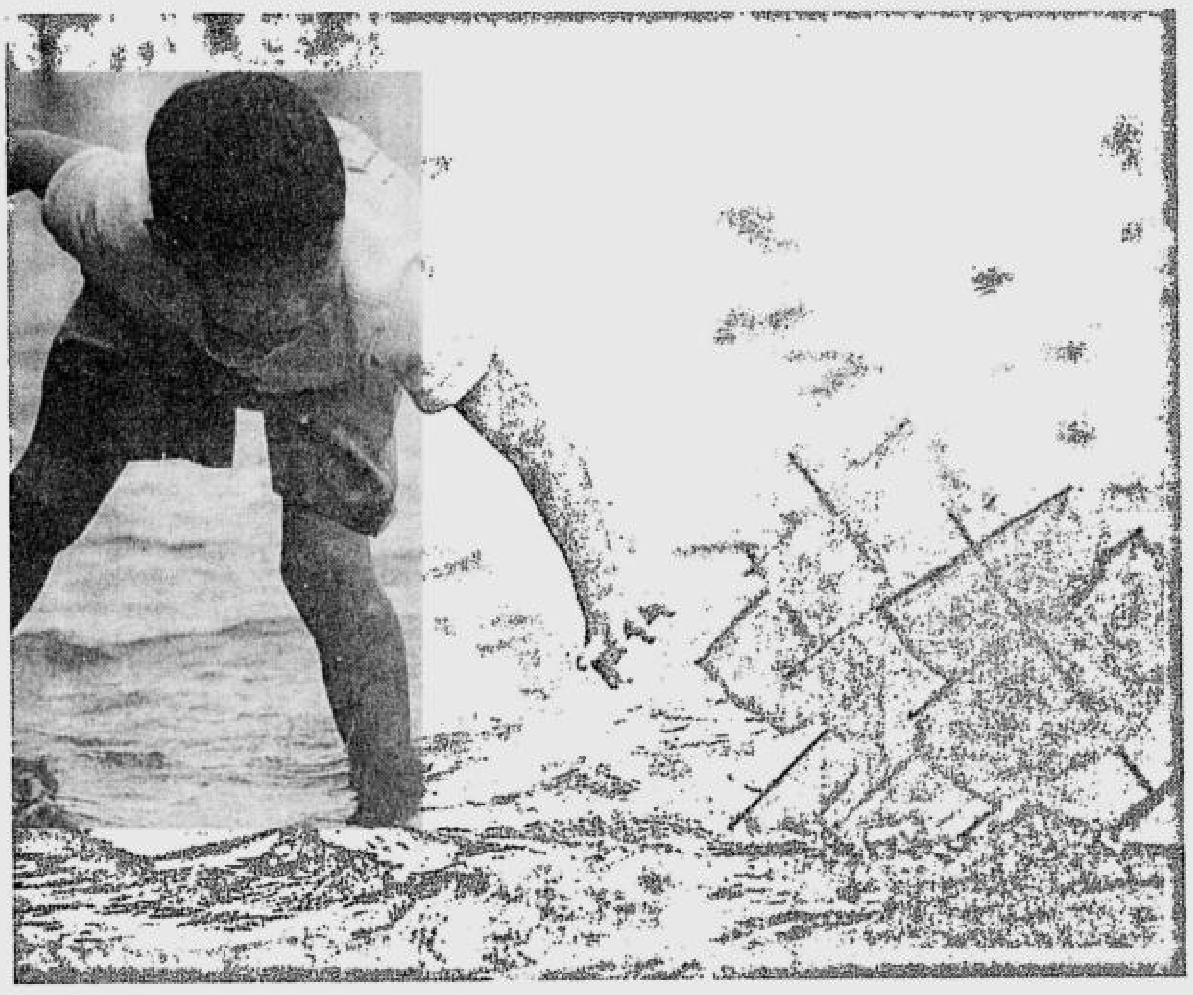
They could either choose the community welfare service or the ROTC course.

"But that depends on the available slots. Under the law, private schools can even do without the CWS," Palabay said.

"What's disheartening is these victims wanted to become officers but they ended up getting abused," she added.

Palabay and Palatino both called on the government to abolish the NSTP.

Militants also called on the Senate and the House of Representatives to conduct an investigation of what happened at Lyceum.



**SUNNY SPIRIT**
**The streets are flooded, the toy ship is not faring well, but these fail to dampen the spirit of this poor kid in Malabon as he takes the stormy weather as a blessing and takes a lifetime trip to Joyland.** ERIK ARAZAS

# 'Slain cop' in stable condition

**By Alcuin Papa**

THE TRAFFIC policeman who was shot and reportedly killed during a traffic arrest in Quezon City last Tuesday is actually in stable condition, Quezon City police clarified yesterday.

Investigators at the Central Police District told reporters that PO3 Marcelo Lasam of the Traffic Management Group is already recuperating at the Manila Central University Hospital.

Lasam was brought to the hospital last Tuesday after he was shot by still unidentified men. Initial reports said Lasam had already expired. This was later confirmed by investigators from the Central Police District Station 3 in Sangandaan, Quezon City and at the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

However it was learned later in the night that Lasam was actually still recovering.

In the blotter entry at the CPD written by PO1 Romel Merino, Lasam was noted to have perished in the incident.

However, reporters covering the Quezon City police were surprised to find out yesterday that the blotter entry was changed with the word "injured" added to Lasam's name in blue ink. The original blotter entry was written in black ink.

Investigators at the CIU said Merino would have to explain the mistake.

Lasam, assigned to the Balintawak traffic detachment, was shot last Tuesday morning by still unidentified men when he tried to accost an illegally parked jeepney in front of the Oriental Market near Cloverleaf in Balintawak, Quezon City.

# Cops want big money, bar owners claim

**By Alcuin Papa**

OWNERS of bars and nightclubs in Metro Manila yesterday denounced policemen who have asked them to double the weekly protection money they give to authorities.

The group, who did not want to be identified, said these policemen have identified themselves as being under the newly installed National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco.

But Velasco denied that he had sent his men to collect and double the protection money from nightclubs. He vowed to investigate the complaint and the policemen whom the owners have named as the ones who have asked them to increase their weekly take.

The nightclub owners identified the policemen as PO3 Edmund Murata, who claimed to be under Supt. Mike Laurel, chief of one of the NCRPO's operating units; a certain SPO1 Javier and civilian agent Rey Cuevas who is supposedly under a Maj. Francisco.

Depending on the size of the establishment, policemen allegedly ask between P3,000 and P5,000 a week in protection money, the group said.

An owner of several bars in Quezon City said the NCRPO's practice of asking for protection money has been going on for years even before Velasco and former NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay took over.

"But now they want us to double the take. We cannot afford to do that because we have operating expenses and business is not so good," said the owner.

He added: "We pay legitimate taxes and whatever permits. We also have to pay the salaries of our employees. If we give in to the new demands, we might be forced to close shop and leave a lot of people jobless."

Another owner said that they do not want to stage any more bold shows "but they (police) are the ones encouraging us so they can milk us of protection money."

He claimed that he has been shelling out P50,000 to the NCRPO and another P20,000 to local officials and police every week for the eight bars he owns around the metropolis.

"And there a lot of other bars in the city," he said.

The owners believe that the crackdown on illegal gambling has led police to go after the clubs "to make up for the shortfall in their collection."

There are about a thousand nightclubs in Metro Manila.

Velasco has asked the club owners to call him if these policemen would visit their businesses again so that they could be arrested.

"Let them stage a setup for these corrupt cops and call me right away so I can arrest them personally," Velasco said.

# Head of 'Quadrillion $' syndicate falls; fake MMDA traffic receipts confiscated

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday arrested the mastermind behind the syndicate that faked "quadrillions" worth of dollars and treasury notes.

The NBI also raided his printing press and again confiscated millions worth of fake dollars, treasury notes, Hong Kong and Japanese visas, and even Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) traffic violation receipts.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the alleged mastermind as Lamberto Del Mundo, alias Berting, 63, a businessman, of 2760 Sunog-Apog St., Tondo, Manila.

During the raid on Del Mundo's Kolor Quality Printing shop at 664 Germinal St. Sta. Cruz, Manila, NBI agents seized 200 pieces of fake $100, 13 pieces of "$1 million" bills, blank Japanese visas; films for Bank of America, Land Bank, and Government Service Insurance Service checks and Yugoslavian currencies; Hong Kong national identification cards, and even MMDA TVRs and identification cards.

The NBI also confiscated a personal computer and a scanner.

Wycoco said the bureau traced down Del Mundo after Jose Rogando, a syndicate member arrested two weeks ago, said the businessman was the source of the fake dollars he had tried to sell.

He added that Del Mundo had been charged for violating the Revised Penal Code's Article 166 (forging treasury or bank notes or other documents payable to bearer). *Philip Tubeza*

# P5M fire destroys Forbes Park house of JDV's son

**Leila B. Salaverria**

AN ESTIMATED P5M worth of property was destroyed in a four-hour fire that hit a Forbes Park house rented by Speaker Jose de Venecia's son Tuesday evening.

The fire was reported to authorities at around 6:36 p.m. on Tuesday and was put out at 10:40 of that same night, said SFO4 Julian Pasion. It reached the second alarm. Approximately P5M in property was damaged, Pasion said.

Barangay Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion said the house, which Joey de Venecia is renting from the Quasha family, was razed to the ground.

Concepcion said house helper Romelia Florencia discovered the fire when she went downstairs to turn on the lights on Tuesday evening and saw smoke coming out from the ceiling. The Barangay Chair said he suspects that faulty electrical wiring might have caused the fire.

Pasion said nobody was reported hurt in the incident. Firemen are still trying to determine the cause of the fire.

Concepcion also commended the Makati Fire Department for their prompt action. He said he would be meeting with fire officials to study ways to further boost firefighting methods.

# Baguio Day celebration

THE BAGUIO Club of Metro Manila celebrates Baguio City's Foundation Day on Sunday, Sept. 1. All members are invited to a day-long "corn festival" outing and picnic in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

For further information and registration, call any of the following members: Olive (Titong Crisologo's office) at 4319195; Levi Vera-Cruz Alabanza at 9128332 or 9111894; Tony Floresca at 9315519; and Annie Cosalan at 9313306.

Baguoites working or residing in Metro Manila are invited to join the Club and all its forthcoming activities. E-mail address: baguioclub_mmla@yahoo.com

The first 10 registrants shall be awarded a special prize on Baguio Day.

**ANTI-SMUT**
**Heads bowed in prayer, this group of tenacious men and women led by Tita Pilapil Reverente (second from right) of Stop Trafficking of Filipinos Foundation (STOP) and the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (PAAP) hear Mass first, with Fr. Robert Reyes officiating, at the Church of San Vicente de Paul on San Marcelino Street in Ermita before they continue their fight against pornography. Reverente and her group yesterday filed a criminal complaint against a tabloid for publication of lewd photos and articles before a Manila court.** ERIK ARAZAS

# THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 15, 2002
Assumption of Mary

1st Reading: Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-27
Gospel: Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior! He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and people forever will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, Holy is his Name!

From age to age his mercy extends to those who live in his presence.

He has acted with power and done wonders, and scattered the proud with their plans.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up those who are downtrodden.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He held out his hand to Israel, his servant, for he remembered his mercy, even as he promised our fathers, Abraham and his descendants forever."

Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

**Commentary**

*Whenever I reflect on the Assumption of Mary I feel great joy for her success and a pinch of loneliness, like when a beloved has been taken from us. Mary the humble servant, the faithful listener, the loving and generous Mother, was so loved by the Lord that he decided to take the whole of her to heaven. Our hearts easily accept the dogma of the Assumption of Mary, proclaimed in 1950, even if our heads find difficulty in explaining it. Mary, the kindhearted girl rushing to help her cousin Elisabeth and the powerful prophet of the Magnificat that announces and denounces, has been exalted. We are glad for her, our beloved Mother, and we get the lesson: when someone tries to bring God to our human life situation, God will take him/her, in an assumption process, towards him.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

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| 6 GOLD (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| 7 GOLD (DOLBY) | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 8 | STUART LITTLE -2 |
| 9 | LILO & STITCH |
| 10 | ABOUT A BOY |

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 (DTS) | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

**Masagana CINEMA GOLD**
TEL. 551 63 87

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |

**starmall Movies**
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 2 | D' URAGONS |
| 3 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 5 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**METROPOLIS star**
tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 2 | D' URAGONS |
| 3 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 4. | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 5 | LILO & STITCH |
| 6 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNFAITHFUL |

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GALING-GALING MO.. |
| 2 | STUART LITTLE 2 |

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC**
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 3 | RESERVE |

**Spring**
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| A | |

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 5 | LILO & STITCH |
| 6 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 7 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 8 (SDDS) | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 9 (DOLBY) | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | RESERVE |

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 3 | D' URAGONS |
| 4 (SDDS) | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 6 (DOLBY) | LILO & STITCH |
| 7 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 8 | GALING-GALING MO |
| 9 | SAGAD |

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 5 (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| 6 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 7 (DOLBY) | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 8 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 (DTS) | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 5 (SDDS) | UNFAITHFUL |

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**Sampaguita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| Lords | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| Jennet | |

**MARKETPLACE** Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | URAGON |
| 2 | GALING MO BABES |
| 3 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |

**Prima**
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | |

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | D' URAGONS |
| 5 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |

**New Divisoria Mall**
**DIVISORIA CINEMA**
tel 244.4619

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |

**FRC Cinema**
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |

**Berma**
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |

**CitiMall**
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SAGAD |
| 2 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 (DTS) | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LILO & STITCH |
| 2 (DTS) | MEGIDDO |
| 3 (DOLBY) | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 4 | UNFAITHFUL |

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 2 (DOLBY) | LILO & STITCH |
| 3 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 4 | MEGIDDO |

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | D' URAGONS |
| 2 | WINDTALKERS |
| 3 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 4 | |

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | D' URAGONS |
| 2 | SORORITY BOYS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | WINDTALKERS |
| 4 DTS | STUART LITTLE 2 |

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 3 | HUNGER FOR LOVE |
| 4 (DTS) | BIGLANG LIKO |

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | SAGAD |
| 3 (DTS) | LILO 7 STITCH |
| 4 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | HANGGANG KAILAN AKO |

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SAGAD |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3. | LILO & STITCH |

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249-2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PAGSALUHAN NATIN |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | THE SWEETEST THING |

**Olivarez Tagaytay**
tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 3 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

**Morales Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | SAGAD |
| 2 (DTS) | RESERVE |

**Fourstep**
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GALING-GALING MO.. |
| 2 | D' URAGONS |
| 3 | THE WINDTALKERS |

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

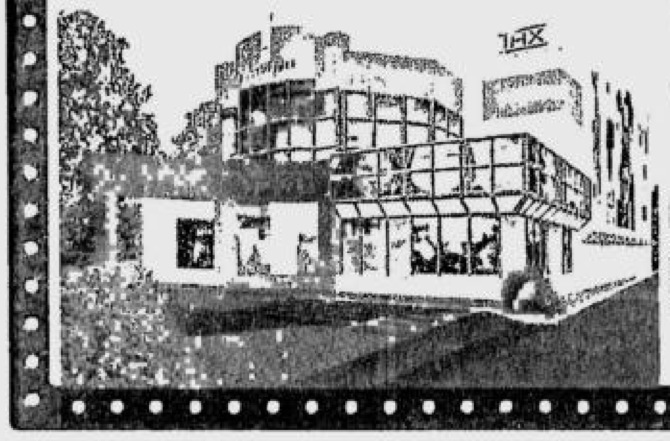
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | D' URAGONS |
| 2 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 3 | MEGIDDO |
| 4 | SAGAD |

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | LILO & STITCH |
| 2 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 (DTS) | THE UNFAITHFUL |
| 4 | MEGIDDO |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS


PREMIERE CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

5:00 PM., 7:30PM, 10:00 PM

about a boy

---

# SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

**SM CITY BACOOR**
4173868

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 6 | D' URAGONS |
| 7 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 8 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

**SM CENTERPOINT**
7149522 -7161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | ANG GALING GALING MO.. |
| 6 | D' URAGONS |
| 7 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 8 | WINDTALKERS |
| 9 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 10 | STUART LITTLE 2 |

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 3 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 4 | LILO & STITCH |
| 5 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 6 | D' URAGONS |
| 7 | SWEETEST THING |
| 8 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 9 | WINDTALKERS |
| 10 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| 11 | ANG GALING GALING MO |
| 12 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**SM CITY MANILA**
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LILO & STITCH |
| 2 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 3 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 4 | SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | WINDTALKERS |
| 7 | KILLING ME SOFT,LY |
| 8 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 9 | D' URAGONS |
| 10 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 11 | MEGIDDO |
| 12 | ORANGE COUNTY |

**SM MEGAMALL**
6331901 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 2 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 5 | SWEETEST THING |
| 6 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 7 | ANG GALING GALING MO |
| 8 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 9 | D' URAGONS |
| 10 | WINDTALKERS |
| 11 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 12 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
9295452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 3 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 4 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | SWEETEST THING |
| 7 | WINDTALKERS |
| 8 | LILO & STITCH |

**SM SOUTHMALL**
8066685

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 2 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 6 | D' URAGONS |
| 7 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 8 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 9 | WINDTALKERS |
| 10 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**SM CITY CEBU**
2313876

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | WINDTALKERS |
| 2 | LILO & STITCH |
| 3 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 4 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 5 | SORORITY BOYS |
| 6 | MEGIDDO |
| 7 | SAGAD |
| 8 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HIGH CRIMES |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | ANG GALING GALING MO |
| 4 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 5 | DOG SOLDIERS |
| 6 | LILO & STITCH |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | MEGIDDO |

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | SWEETEST THING |
| 3 | MEGIDDO |
| 4 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | LILO & STITCH |

**SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT**
8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | D' URAGONS |

**SM CINEMA TUTUBAN**
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | LILO & STITCH |
| 3 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 4 | D' URAGONS |

**SM CITY DAVAO**
2976998

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HIGH CRIMES |
| 2 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 3 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| 4 | ANG GALING GALING MO |
| 5 | WINDTALKERS |
| 6 | LILO & STITCH |

**SM BICUTAN**

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

**SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO**

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

**THE PODIUM CINEMA**
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6389781-85 loc 120

**LILO & STITCH**
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/ 1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/
9:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

**UNFAITHFUL**
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/
8:40/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee · P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate · P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

---

# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

**Galleria** 632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 THX | WINDTALKERS |
| 2 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 4 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 5 | LILO & STITCH |
| 6 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 7 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 8 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 9 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 10 | STUART LITTLE 2 |

**Ermita** 536 -7809- 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 2 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| 3 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 4 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 6 | LILO & STITCH |
| 7 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

**Metro East -** Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ABOUT A BOY |
| 2 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 3 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 4 | LILO & STITCH |
| 5 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 6 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 7 | WINDTALKERS |
| 8 | BIGLANG LIKO |

**Novaliches** 935- 3229 - 30

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| 2 | LILO & STITCH |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 6 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 7 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 8 | WINDTALKERS |

**Imus** 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | LILO & STITCH |
| 3 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 4 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

**Bacolod** 441- 0453 / 0459

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LILO & STITCH |
| 2 | MEGIDDO |
| 3 | ANG GALING 2 MO BABES |
| 4 | DOG SOLDIERS |
| 5 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| 6 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |

**Iloilo** 336- 8077 - 78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 2 | MEGIDDO |
| 3 | HIGH CRIMES |
| 4 | EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS |
| 5 | LILO & STITCH |
| 6 | ANG GALING 2 MO BABES |

**Star Mills-** Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEGGIDO |
| 2 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| 3 | LILO & STITCH |
| 4 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | LILO & STITCH |

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

Late Night Screening
on
Aug. 17 - 18, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

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# SMILE!

## Dahil kayang-kaya mo nang magka-camera

sa

PHOTOPlus

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## UP TO 50% OFF!

From
August 15 to 18
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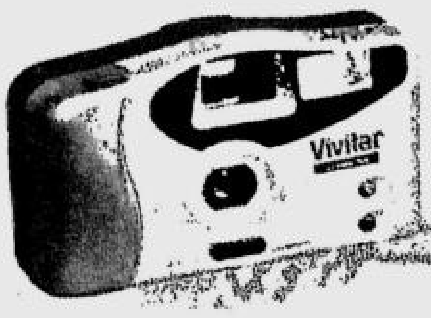
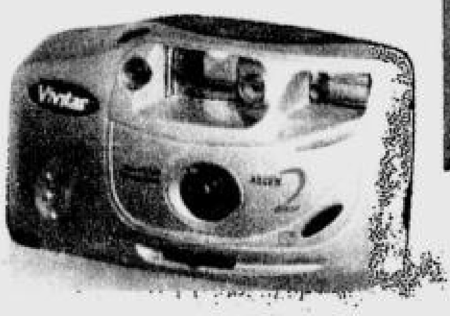


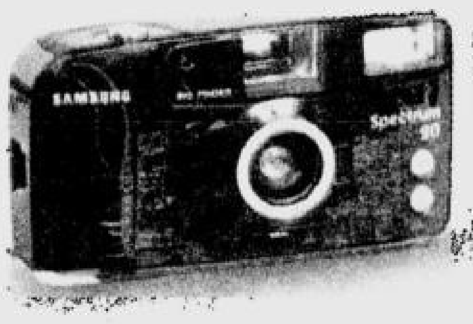
**Vivitar BV 20 EZ Motor Plus**
Before: P 1,100.00
Now: P 660.00

**Minolta F35 BF with Free Polaroid Film and Maxell Black Battery**
Before: P 2,195.00
Now: P 1,756.00

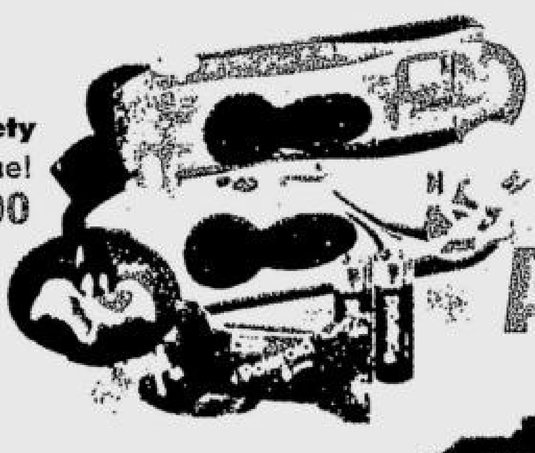
**Samsung Fino 20S Champagne**
Before: P 1,850.00
Now: P 1,480.00



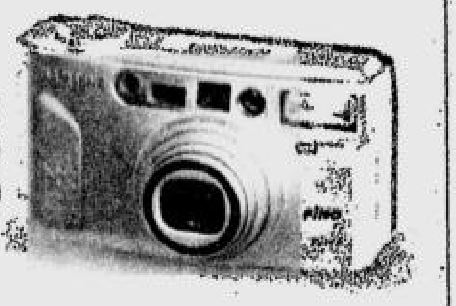
**Vivitar Alien 2 Champagne**
Before: P 1,420.00
Now: P 852.00



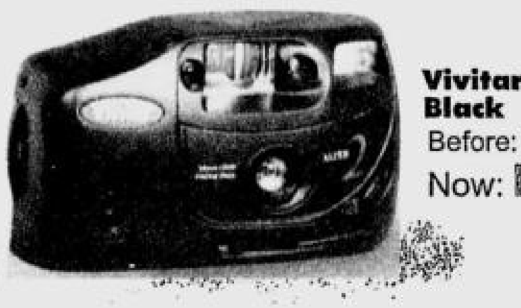
**Samsung Spectrum 20 Blue**
Before: P 1,950.00
Now: P 1,170.00



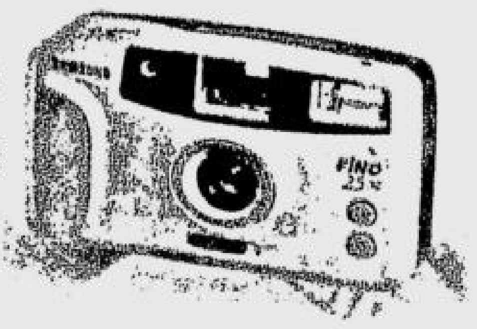
**Polaroid Izone Tweety**
Buy One Take One!
For only P 1,890.00
Check-out other available colors and characters.



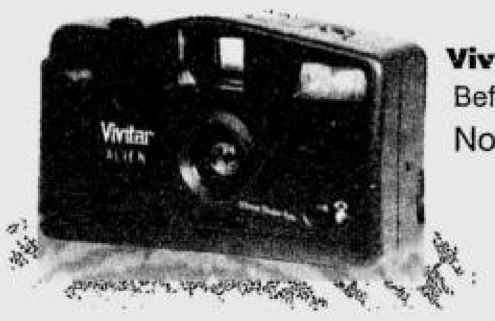
**Samsung Fino 170**
Before: P 20,795.00
Now: P 16,636.00



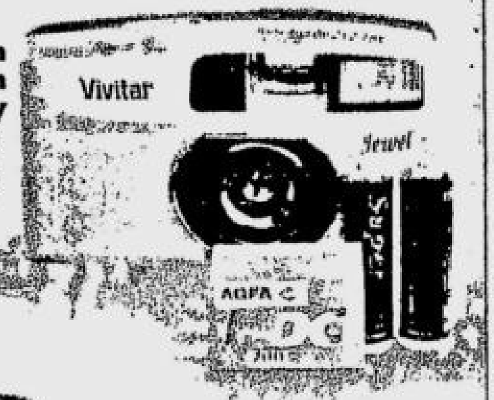
**Vivitar Alien 2 Black**
Before: P 1,420.00
Now: P 852.00



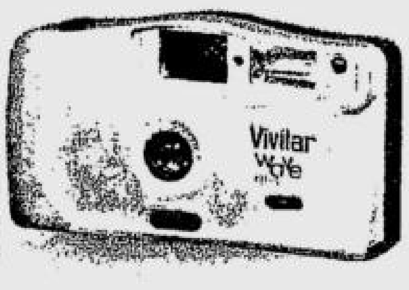
**Samsung Fino 25S**
Before: P 2,250.00
Now: P 1,800.00



**Vivitar Alien 1**
Before: P 1,340.00
Now: P 804.00



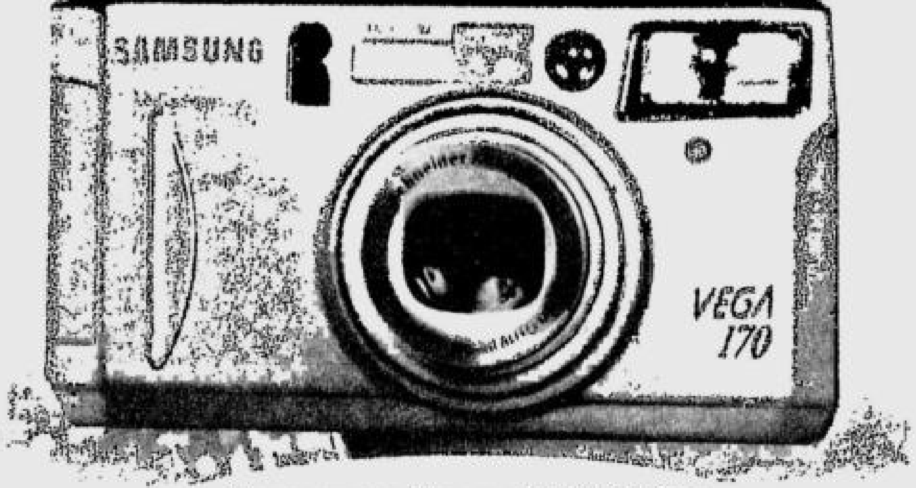
**Vivitar Jewel Charm with Free Agfa HDC Film and Maxell Black Battery**
Before: P 1,395.00
Now: P 1,116.00



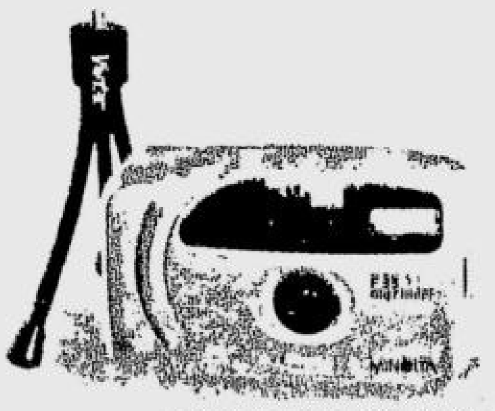
**Vivitar Wave Plus (BV20)**
Before: P 1,200.00
Now: P 720.00

**Minolta Memory Maker**
Before: P 1,995.00
Now: P 997.50

**Vivitar BV 85 VTR Macro with Self-Timer**
Before: P 2,020.00
Now: P 1,212.00



**Samsung Vega 170 S QD**
Before: P 22,650.00
Now: P 15,855.00



**Minolta F35 Big Finder ST with Free Tripod**
Before: P 2,595.00
Now: P 2,076.00

Available at all PHOTOPLUS outlets in participating SM Malls nationwide.

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SM City DAVAO
SM City MANILA
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SM City [illegible]
THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1499, Series of 2002.

PHOTOPlus

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# Pilar Pilapil's second marriage not for display

From p. A30

angst. An artist is entitled to his moods, huh?

At first I dismissed his erratic behavior as part of the artist in him. He loved and breathed New York. His works were risque and avant-garde. I remember one of his controversial paintings which he made for his infamous friend. He left it in our house for safekeeping. If only I could divulge the details, it would be a major scoop.

But the last thing Dranreb needs at the moment is public scrutiny and biased judgment. Contrary to reports, he did not attempt to commit suicide in a rehab.

Let's give him a fair chance. We can only hope that he does not blow it.

Carry on, Reb! Carry *mo 'yan*, as they say in your artsy world.

**M.U.B. changes**

"MAGANDANG Umaga Bayan" proves to be even more of an early adrenaline shot with all the exciting changes in it. I'm delighted that my "Dollywood" movie review segment will now be aired twice weekly (Monday and Friday on Channel 2) and you can expect a lot more juicy portions in the show now.

**Albert Martinez** is wrapping up "Laman" under *Direk* **Maryo J. de los Reyes**. Like a schoolboy bursting with excitement, he said, "I've never made anything like it before. I love the plot!"

I teased him: "So will you let my *kumareng* Liezl watch it? She can but she may not?"

He laughed. "Nothing to hide. Besides, she goes over all the movie scripts offered to me and we discuss whether to accept a project or not."

**Tin-Tin Bersola** can hardly contain her excitement over the new phase in her TV career. She has been tapped to be Boy Abunda's co-host in the daily afternoon show "etc."

"Hands-on *ako* in etc.," she said. "I'm doing a story about actresses who were former GROs and are not ashamed to admit it. I wrote the script, interviewed the guests myself and even helped in inviting some stars."

**Eric Quizon** is eagerly preparing to direct his dad **Dolphy** and **Jolina Magdangal** in the movie "Home Along Da River."

**Friends at the Square**

IF you happen to be in the Mandaluyong or Ortigas area during lunch hour, sample the yummy "*lutong bahay*" lunch treats at my headquarters, Friends at the Square (St. Francis Square, across Megamall). For as low as P70 you get a complete meal.

I interview stars for my column over lunch at Friends so you never know who you'll run into. Juicy stories go well with the sumptuous menu.

**Personal**

*DAMO gid na salamat* to my gorgeous *amigo* from BSBA Pampanga, Air Force Pilot Edwin Vargas. Our friendship keeps me walking on air so who needs love then?

*For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com*

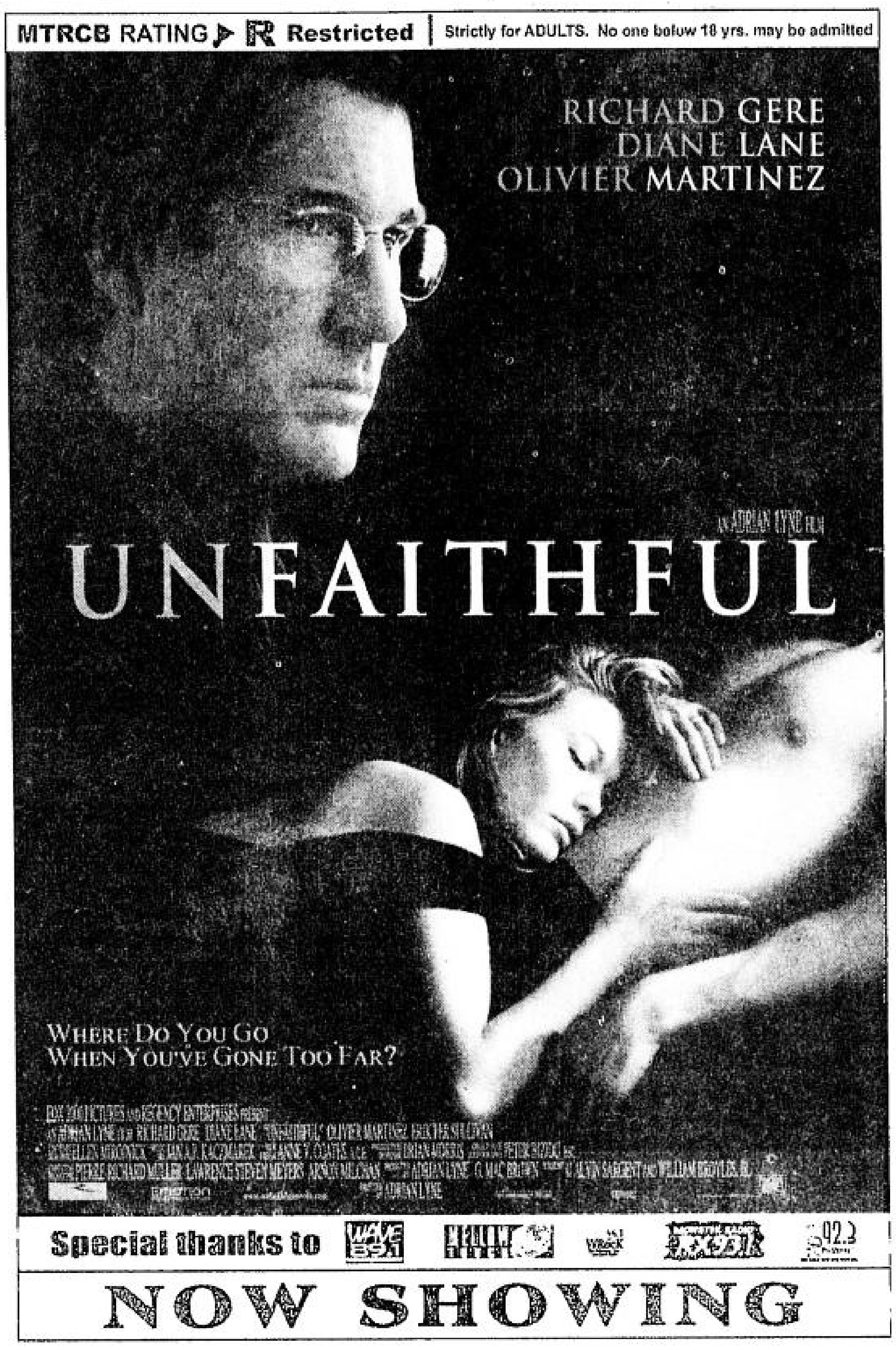
## Album launch

VIVA Records, in cooperation with Mossimo and Wave 89.1, announces the launch of Toy Symphony's self-titled album at 5 p.m. today at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The album is a lively pop concoction produced by Hot Dog top man Dennis Garcia. It is a blend of soulful ballads and bouncy dance numbers.

Toy Symphony is expected to take off to the top with several potential chart-toppers in the album like love ballads "Namimilipit sa Sarap," penned by Garcia and Bernard Bismark, "Baby Don't Go" and the first single, "Love is Here To Stay."

Toy Symphony performs regularly at Virgin Cafe in Tomas Morato, Quezon City on Fridays.



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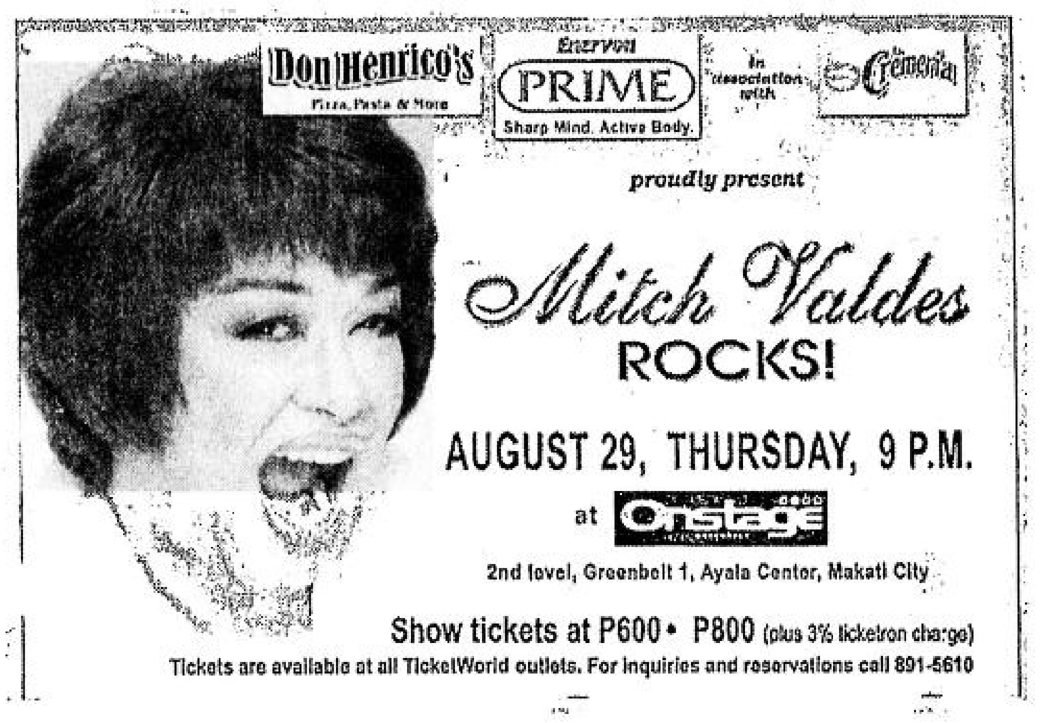

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Show tickets at P600 • P800 (plus 3% ticketron charge)
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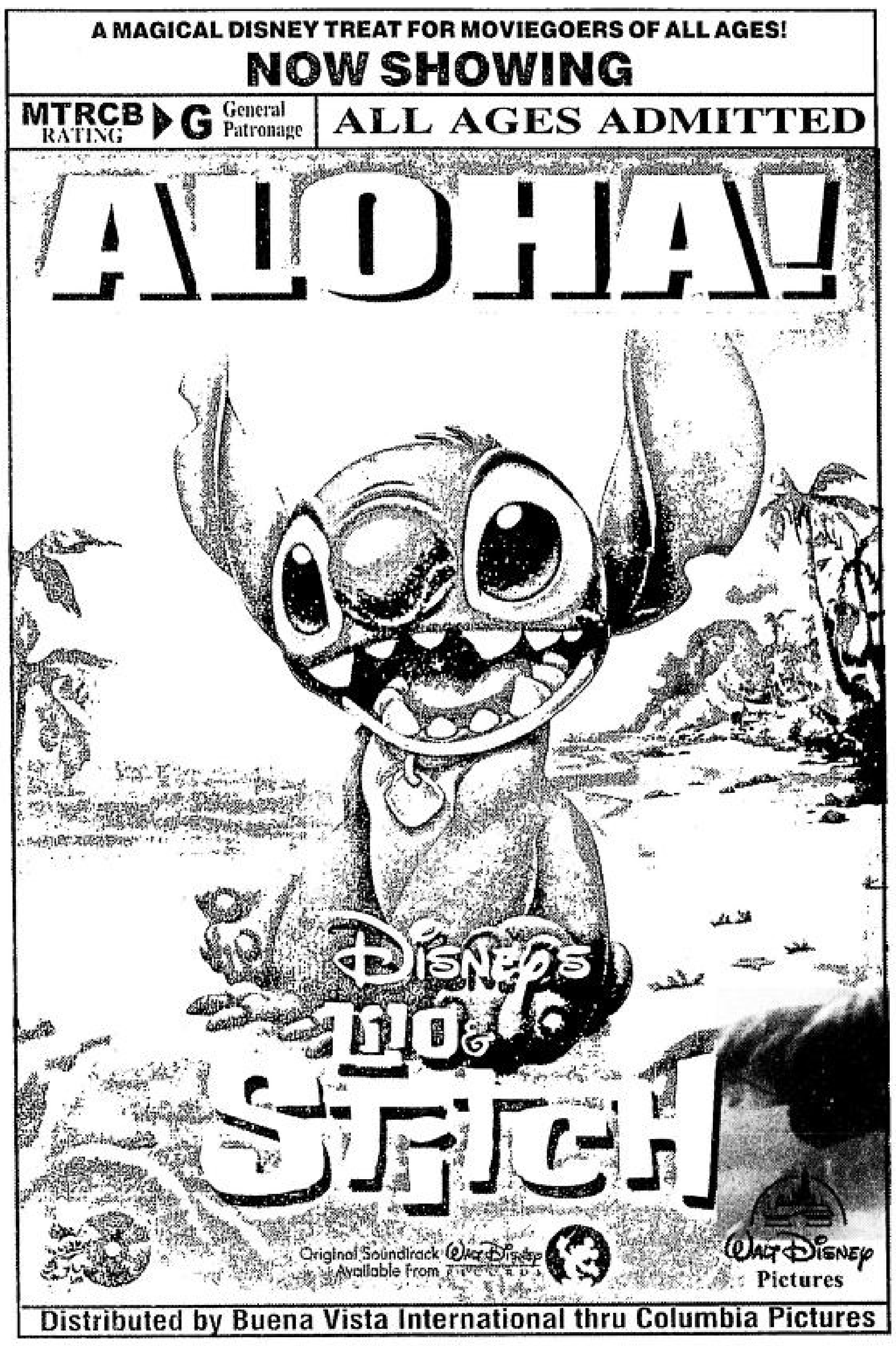

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| LILO & STITCH | LILO & STITCH | MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002 | THE SWEETEST THING<br>11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 | UNFAITHFUL |
| KILLING ME SOFTLY | KILLING ME SOFTLY | MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002 | UNFAITHFUL<br>12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20 | THE SWEETEST THING |
| THE SWEETEST THING | UNFAITHFUL<br>11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 | Onstage | AMELIE<br>1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 | LILO & STITCH |
| UNFAITHFUL | 8 LEGGED FREAKS | RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM | KILLING ME SOFTLY<br>12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 | ORANGE COUNTY |
| | ABOUT A BOY | | LILO & STITCH<br>11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 6:30, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 | ABOUT A BOY |
| | THE SWEETEST THING | | | |
| | ORANGE COUNTY | | | |

ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com

The Ayala mall Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU
MAKATI
August 2 to 4
2pm, 4pm and 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center
ALABANG
August 9 to 11
11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center
CEBU
August 16
11:30am, 5pm and 7pm
August 17 & 18
11:30am, 3pm and 6pm
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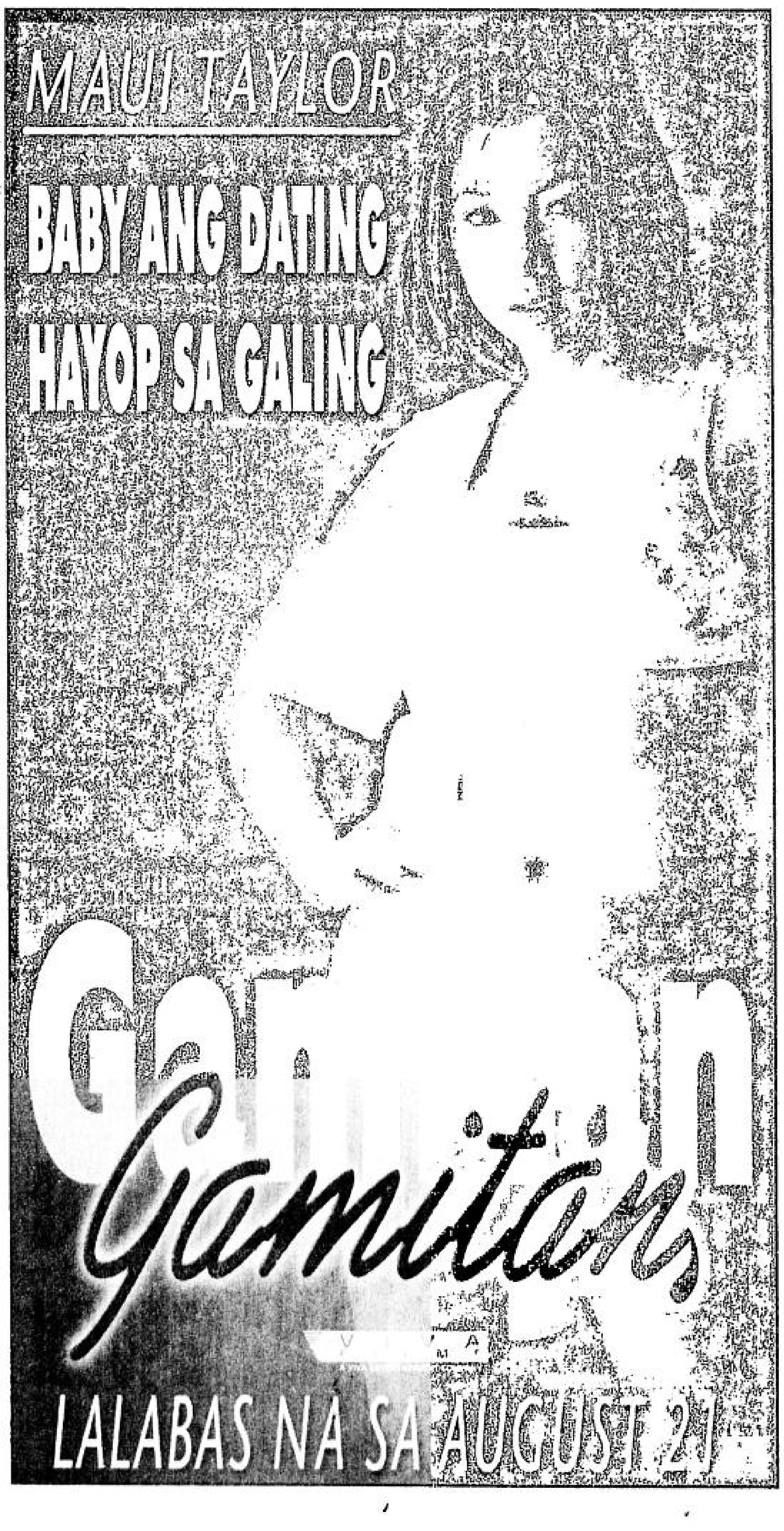
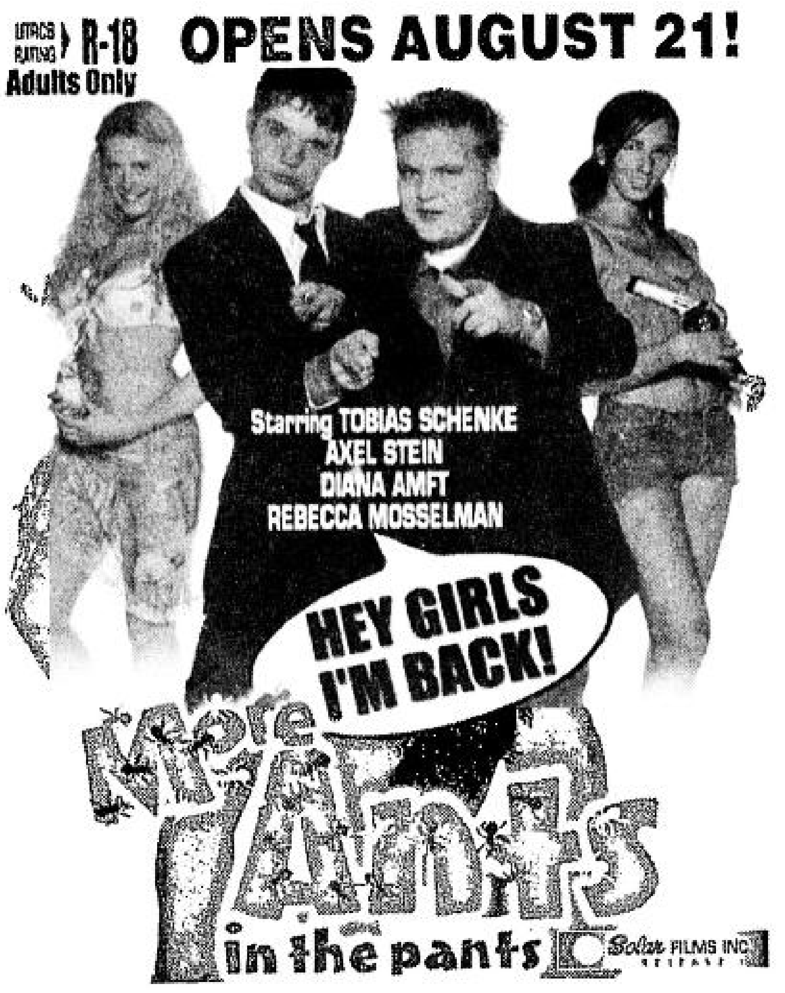


MAUI TAYLOR
BABY ANG DATING
HAYOP SA GALING
Gamitan
VIVA
LALABAS NA SA AUGUST 21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Adults Only
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AXEL STEIN
DIANA AMFT
REBECCA MOSSELMAN
HEY GIRLS I'M BACK!
More
Ants
in the pants
Solar FILMS INC RELEASE

SIDE A. In a benefit concert for an adopted community of Rotary Club Makati-Buendia.

# Side A at Le Pavillon

THE ROTARY Club of Makati Buendia and Body and Soul will mount "Side A By the Way," a benefit for Sitio Sto. Nino in Muntinlupa City, an adopted community of the RC Makati Buendia.

The concert is slated Aug. 16 at Le Pavillon along Roxas Blvd.

The show will also feature singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez.

Side A is the pop quintet of Joey Generoso (vocalist), Naldy Gonzales (keyboardist), Kelly Badon (lead guitarist), Joey Benin (bassist) and Ernie Severino (drummer).

Sponsors for the concert are Piattos, XO Chocolate Shake Candy, Haier and Midea by LKG Group, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Citilite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic dwTM 89.9, K-Lite 103.5 and 99.5 dwRT.

Tickets are available at Ticket World National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store, Tower Records and Music Museum.

Call 826-0301. JO

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | D' URAGONS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SWEETEST THING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | WINDTALKERS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | BIGLANG LIKO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | D' URAGONS |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS |
| ODEON | UNFAITHFUL |
| ODEON-2 | SELDA / MONSTER BALL |
| ROBEN | BIGLANG LIKO |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| REMAR | BIGLANG LIKO |
| REMAR-2 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | BIGLANG LIKO |
| B | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-2 | LILO & STITCH |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| CINEMA-2 | MAPUPULANG ROSAS |
| CINEMA-3 | SAGAD |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | WINDTALKERS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | D' URAGONS |
| CINEMA-6 | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-7 | STUART LITTLE 2 |
| CINEMA-8 | ABOUT A BOY |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ORANGE COUNTRY |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | LILO & STITCH |
| CINEMA-12 | SWEETEST THING |
| CINEMA-14 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| CINEMA-15 | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-3 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |
| CINEMA-5 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-6 | SELDA |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ABOUT A BOY<br>P 13<br>1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 | LILO & STITCH<br>GP<br>11:35, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50 | THE SWEETEST THING<br>R18<br>12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 |
| ORANGE COUNTRY<br>P13<br>11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:00, 10:05 | KILLING ME SOFTLY<br>R18<br>12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 | UNFAITHFUL<br>R18<br>11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 |

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CINEMA 2 LILO & STITCH 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35, 10:30, P 13
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cameron diaz
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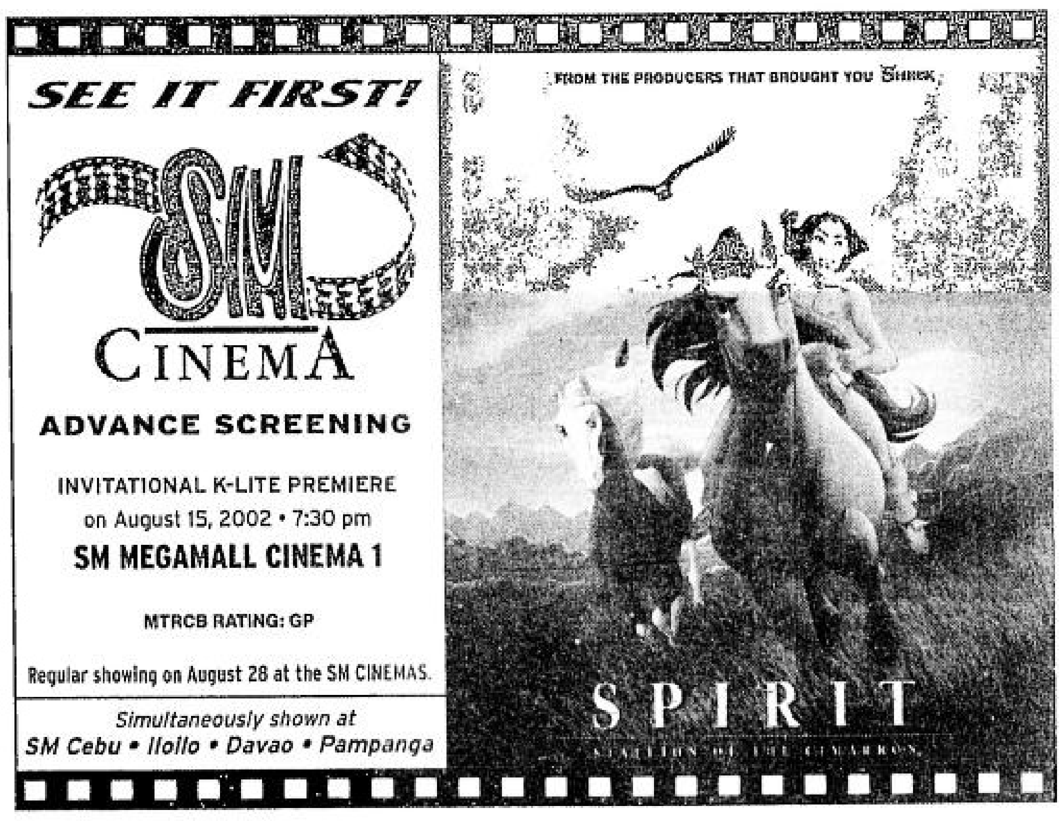
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SPIRIT
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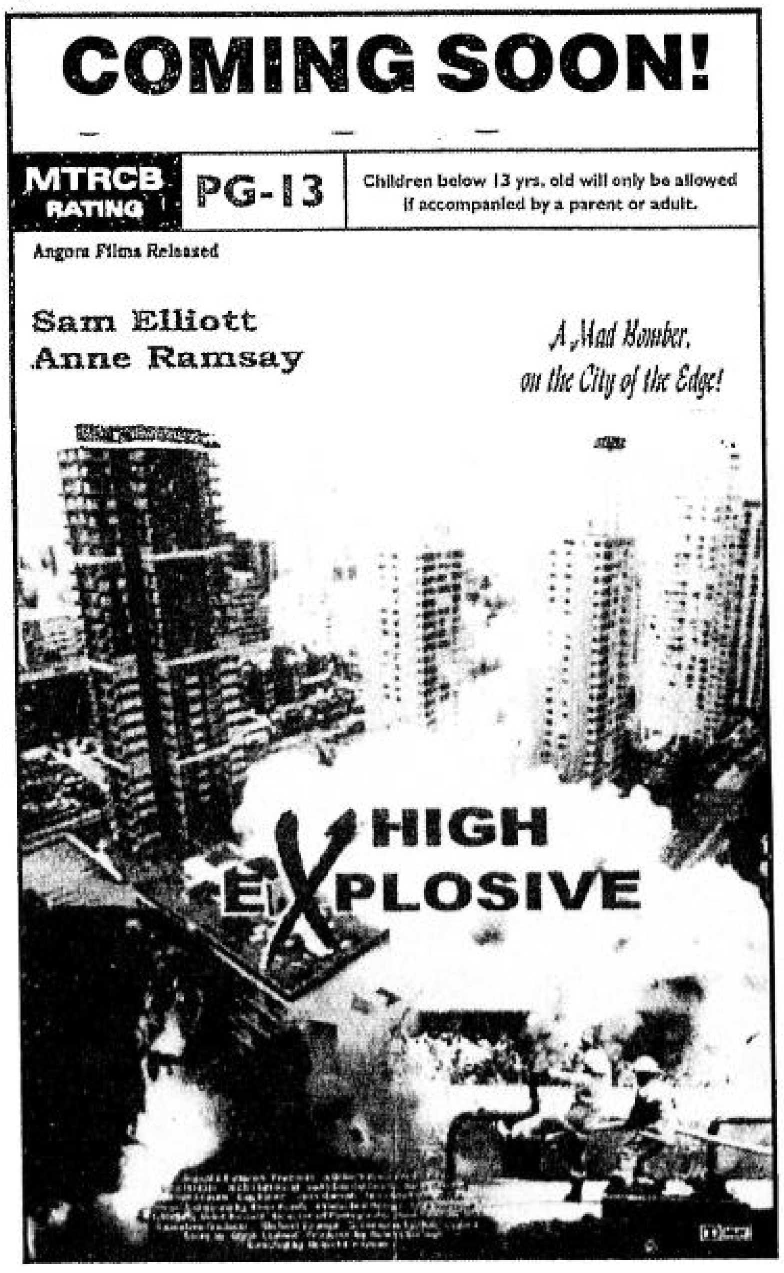
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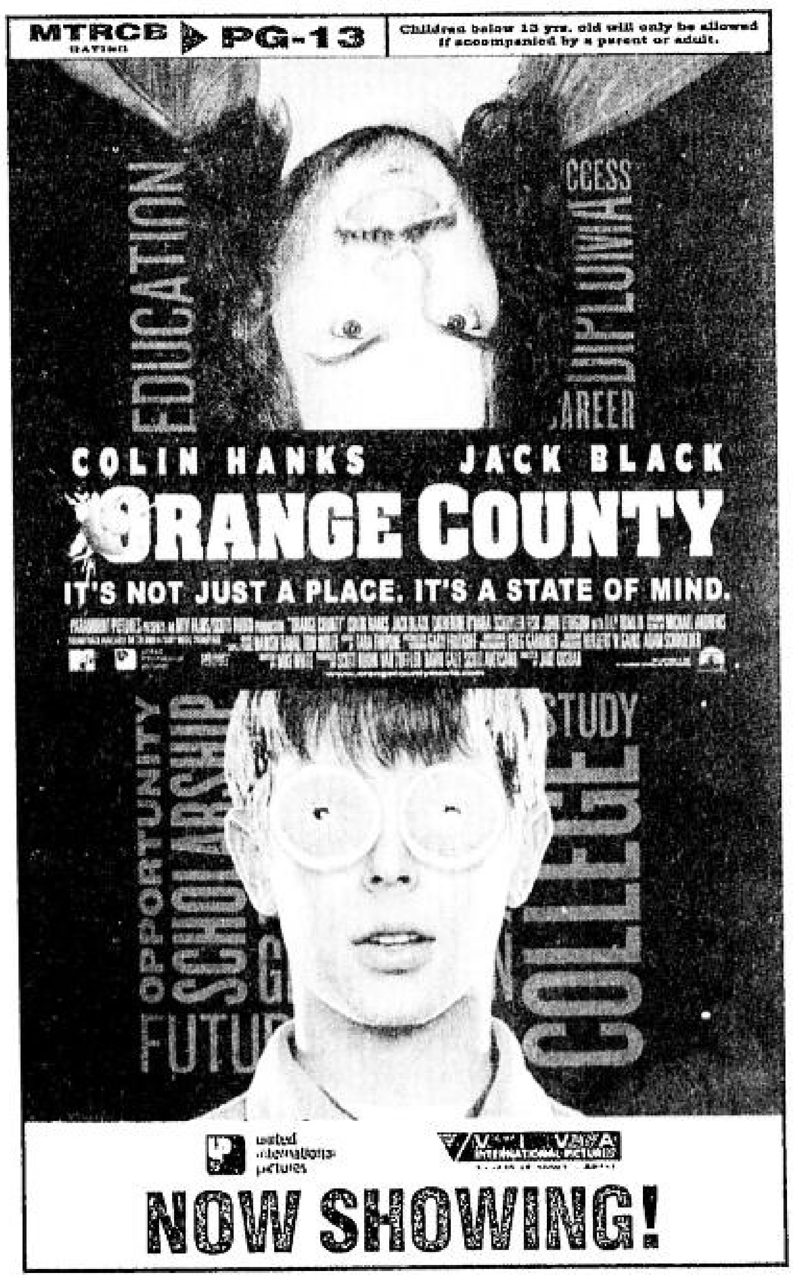
PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GARCIA
ANDREW E.
D'Uragons
Never Umuurong Always Sumusulong
SA CHICKS MATINIK. SA TROBOL MABAGSIK.
MANOY 'N GAMOL : TAGISAN NG GIMIK!
DIRECTED BY BEN FELEO
VIVA
NOW SHOWING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COLIN HANKS
JACK BLACK
ORANGE COUNTY
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VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

## Making money on 'Extra, Extra'

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

"EXTRA, EXTRA," Channel 7's weekday magazine show, is now devoting its Wednesday edition to featuring different businesses, with the view in mind of helping viewers start their own money-making projects.

This is a good move during these tough times, when many people are thinking of new ways to make money for themselves and their families.

We tuned in to the show some Wednesday ago to see how well it was attaining this worthy objective. It started with co-host **Paolo Bediones** checking out the Mustang Bar and its novel attractions, the sexy Mustang Girls, "inspired" by the film, "Coyote Ugly."

The Mustang Girls draw a big macho crowd with their "performance" on top of the bar. They also invite some male patrons to get up on the bar with them, and strip the guys down to their pants.

The first feature was interesting, but it gave precious few details to help viewers understand the business end of putting up and running a bar-restaurant.

Next, co-host **Miriam Quiambao** spent a day with the owner of Lydia's Lechon, which was started with only P500, but now has more than 20 branches nationwide, after 36 years in operation.

The lady owner showed off her riches, Miriam chopped up and sold several kilos of *lechon*, but the feature again failed to show viewers how they too could start their own *lechon* business.

Thankfully, the third feature, on candlemaking on a budget, did go into a detailed demonstration of the candlemaking process, cost of materials, suggested pricing, and profit margin. All the features should have done this, to give viewers detailed tips on how they could go into similar businesses for themselves.

Another feature was on the bar-restaurant owned by siblings **Judy Ann** and **Jeffrey Santos**. The feature shared the information that the owners had invested P2 million, used second-hand furniture and décor to economize, and charged very reasonable prices, but didn't go into the real nitty-gritty of funding and running such a business.

A final "inspirational" feature was on an honest waiter who found P5 million, but instead of vanishing with that huge amount, returned it to its owner. That item was a good break from more business-oriented features on the show, and a reminder that good values are needed in the business world, not just the profit motive.

All told, the "Extra, Extra" "business" episode was an interesting viewing experience. In future, however, it should be more instructional in its approach. Its goal should be to inform viewers so clearly about a particular business endeavor that they could go into it on their own.

To do this, more time is needed. So, the half-hour show should limit its how-to features to only two per week.

If the Wednesday edition chooses its businesses well and really informs viewers how to go into them and make money, it could end up as one of the most popular weekly features of the magazine show.

### Boob-tube booboos

HOST: How's your career doing these days? Any new movies?

Veteran star: No, *pero* in demand *ako sa mga* abroad shows!

(Abroad shows? What's that?)

* * *

Host: How did you feel, acting in your first movie?

Starlet: At first, I must admit, acting can be very nervous!

(Come again?)

* * *

Host: Did you know that your boyfriend had another girlfriend?

Guest: In fairness, I knew that *naman* from the very first start.

(*Ay*, the very first start!)

* * *

Host: Why do you like doing comedy?

Starlet: It makes me forget whatever I have!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: How is your husband with the kids—is he a strict disciplinarian?

Guest: Yes, but *nasa lugar naman*.

Host: So, *hindi sila takot sa kanya*?

Guest: Well, I admit, *takot sila sa kanya. Kaya lang, hindi* actually *takot* in the sense of *takot*!

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: Who's more in love–you or your boyfriend?

Guest: That's a nice question, *ha*?–Well, to answer, I love him, but he loves me even more, if that possible.

(If that possible *daw, o*!)

* * *

Host: How do you feel about doing bold movies?

Guest: No problem! *Ginusto ko naman 'to, e.*

Host: So, you're not embarrassed?

Guest: Of course not. And nobody can stop me. It's a country, after all!

(*Ay*, it's a country!)

ROCK THE BOAT
CRUISE ON SCHEDULE SEPT. 8-11

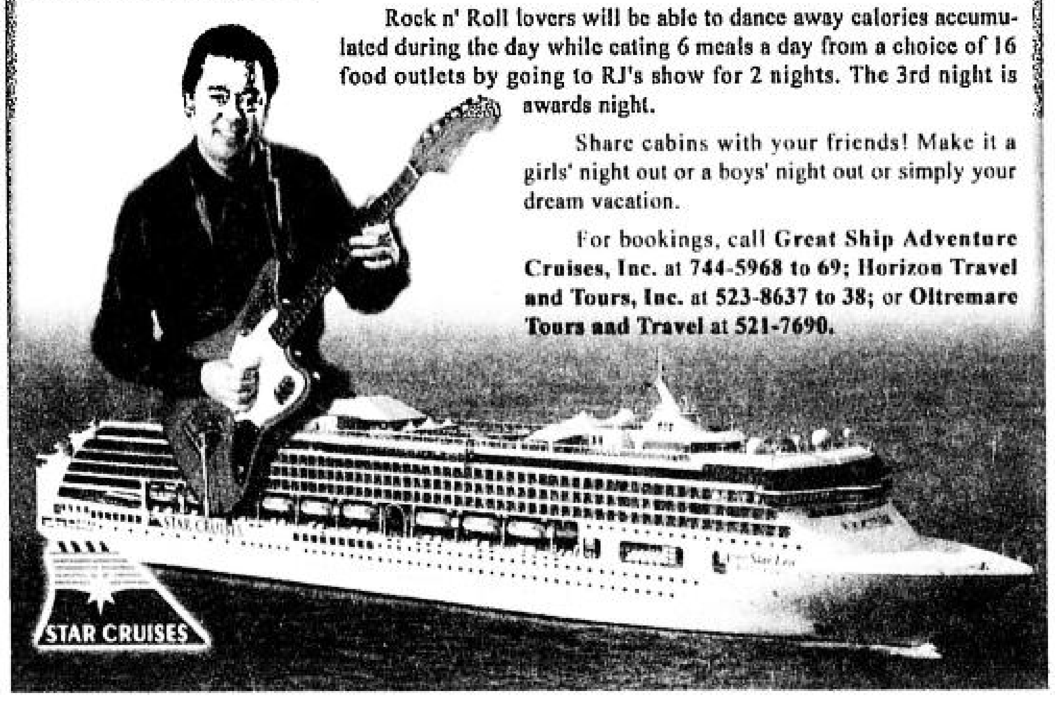
**RJ's Rock the Boat Cruise has started getting bookings. With prices starting at only $498 inclusive of plane fare via PAL or Cathay Pacific MNL/HK/MNL, 6 meals a day on Asia-Pacific's largest cruise ship, Superstar Leo, and a 4-day/3-night cruise leaving Hongkong on Sept. 8. The cruise goes to Sanya Island China and Halong Bay in Vietnam and back to Hongkong on Sept. 11.**

**A special deal is available if you want to extend in Hongkong for 2 nights before or after the cruise. For 2 nights it's only $73 at Marco Polo Gateway, $82 at Holiday Inn Golden Mile or $85 at Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel.**

**Rock n' Roll lovers will be able to dance away calories accumulated during the day while eating 6 meals a day from a choice of 16 food outlets by going to RJ's show for 2 nights. The 3rd night is awards night.**

Share cabins with your friends! Make it a girls' night out or a boys' night out or simply your dream vacation.

For bookings, call **Great Ship Adventure Cruises, Inc. at 744-5968 to 69; Horizon Travel and Tours, Inc. at 523-8637 to 38; or Oltremare Tours and Travel at 521-7690.**



## Pilar Pilapil's second marriage not for display

**DOLLYWOOD**

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

I GOT a surprise call from **Pilar Pilapil**, the one woman I would like to turn into someday.

She requested me to clarify the reasons why she was low-key about her Christian wedding in Cebu last May 18. She said it's not that she wants to leave some mystery, since she's done with those hide-and-seek games. There are just some things that are too precious to expose, she said.

Besides, her second marriage is not for display purposes. This time it's for keeps.

The ever fab Cebuana stressed, "I'm not evading the press. I just don't want my marriage to turn into a circus. It's really sacred and I intend to keep it that way."

Her first marriage in 1986 has long been annulled. Her second husband is a pastor. She has made it her lifelong mission to reach out to the stars and share God's word.

Pilar has been at centerstage as a beauty queen and as an actress. But no crown or trophy can ever give her the radiance she now has as a godly woman of substance.

### Carry on, Dranreb

I'M glad that **Dranreb Belleza** has finally come to his senses. There was a time he would spend sleepless nights at our place rambling on to me and my mom about his

PILAR/ p. A28

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The Master Cinematographer who worked with the greatest film legends: Costa Gavras, Francois Truffaut, Roger Vadim, Sam Fuller, Bertrand Tavernier, Geoffrey Holder, and Claude Le Louche on Cannes 2002 Closing Film "And Now Ladies and Gentlemen"
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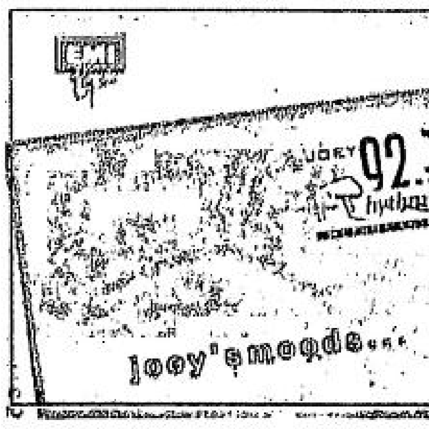

EMI
joey's moods...
JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms METRO MANILA
I Can See Clearly Now holly cole trio Golden Girl fattburger Superwoman noel pointer Never Existed Before minnie ripperton Living Inside Your Love earl klugh Never Too Far dianne reeves Just An Illusion najee True spandau ballet After The Love Has Gone damage At Seventeen tara maclean Hardcore Poetry tavares Stay Awake ronnie laws I'm Sorry everette harp All My Reasons noel pointer Fabulous nubians They Can't Take That Away From Me robbie williams
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BUSINESS

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# Investments registered by BOI, Peza down 50%

*Gov't lines up more assets for sale next year*
PAGE B3

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**THE COMBINED investments registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority dropped by nearly 50 percent in the first six months of this year as unrestrained politicking by Malacañang and Congress officials further dimmed the country's business prospects.**

The BOI reported that its investment haul shrunk by 63 percent to P13.34 billion in the first six months this year from P36.14 billion during the same period a year ago. The decline in Peza investment was more tolerable as it fell 23 percent to P15.4 billion (which was bigger than the BOI's) in the first half this year from P19.756 billion a year ago.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II continued to put the blame on the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington 11 months ago for the dearth in investments.

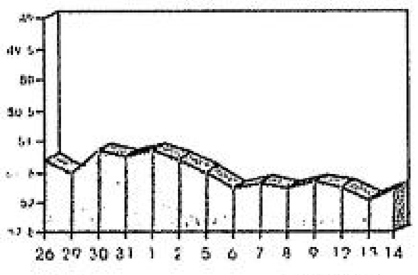
"This is not surprising, considering that for an investment to have been registered by this time of the year, the decision would have been made in October, November and December last year when the terror of Sept. 11 was very

INVESTMENTS/ B2

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

**₱ 51.79 = $1**

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 14, 2002

**¥ 117.34 = $1**

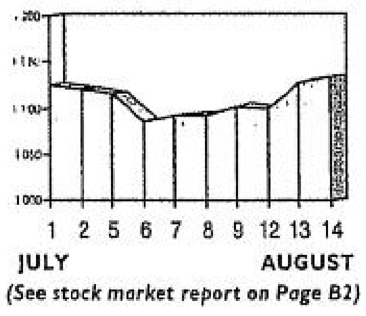
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 14, 2002

GOLD: **$316.60/317.10**

per ounce Hong Kong,
Aug. 14, 2002

### STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



*(See stock market report on Page B2)*

## Shares close 0.5% higher

SHARES closed 0.5 percent higher yesterday due to bargain-hunting, although the overall sentiment remained weak due to concerns about a widening budget deficit, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 6.15 points to 1,134.31.

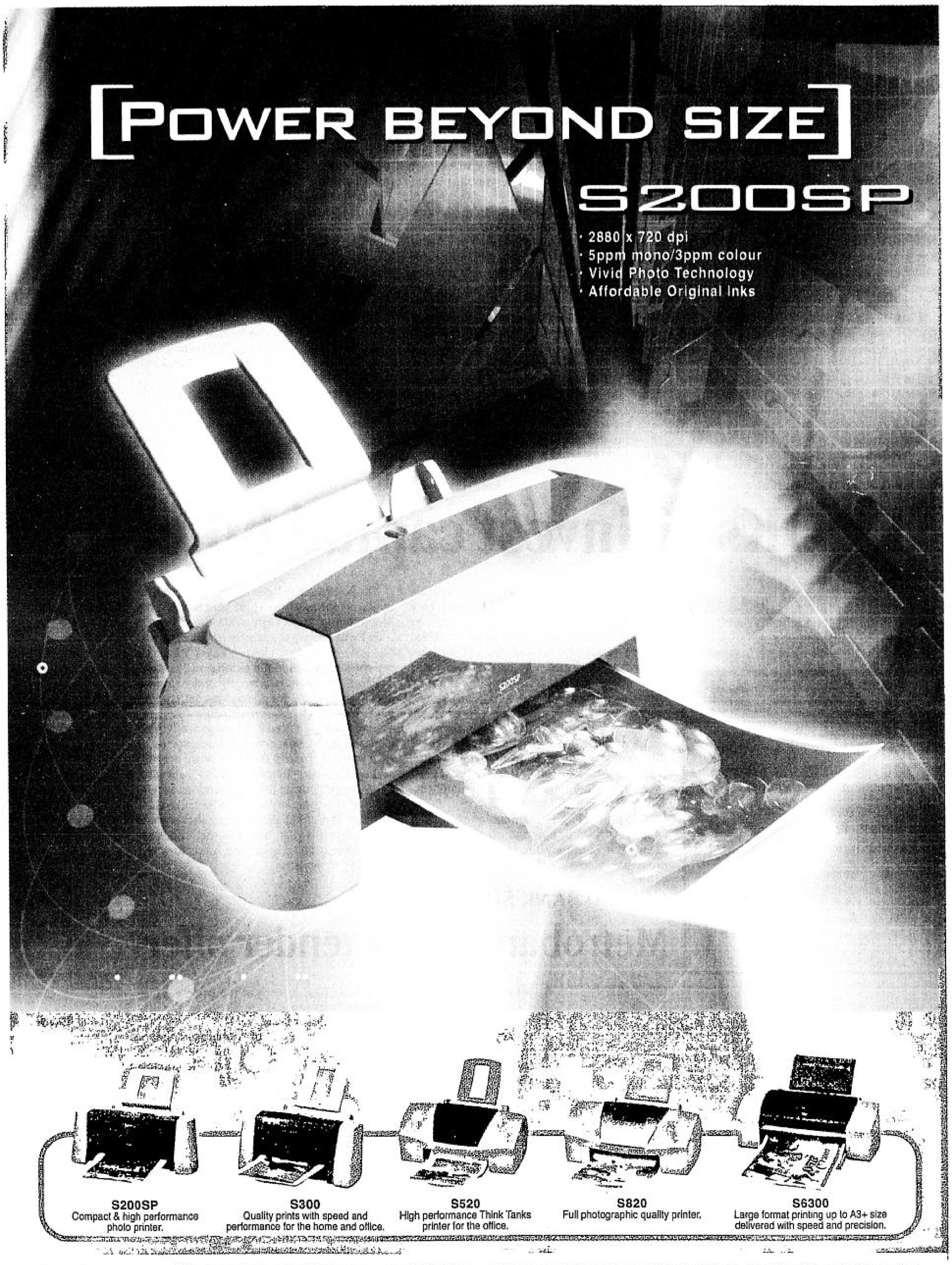
Turnover rose to 303.22 million shares worth P397.78 million from 283.62 million shares worth P367.71 million on Tuesday.

"These (price movements) are largely because of technical factors only. The market is up slightly because of some bargain-hunting, but there was also profit-taking as some investors took profits while the market is on the upside," said Ron Rodrigo at All Swerte Securities.

Overall sentiment remained weighed down by news the government's budget deficit as of July has widened to around the full-year target of P130 billion, he said.

Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities said investors have long expected that the deficit target would be overshot.

"I think it's an issue that we will have to contend with for the rest of the year," he said. *AFP*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# Casino ni Maria

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

AN ANTI-GAMBLING bloc in Congress will oppose gambling—whether legal or not.

Those were the words of a congressman who, most likely, does not enjoy spending money for the bingo games and raffles which parochial schools and parish councils hold in his district for charitable causes.

One of the legal gambling joints happens to be the state-owned casino operator Pagcor. Being owned by the government, Pagcor remits to various government outfits and funds every centavo of its income.

Under various republic acts, Pagcor must give money to religious groups, sports programs, childhood care, training programs, and the DOST, or the Department of Science and Technology itself, to which Congress never gives enough pork . . . este, funding.

I take it that, since Pagcor is the only legal gambling operation in this country, the so-called anti-gambling bloc in Congress will oppose Pagcor. They threaten to close down Pagcor. What happens then to the DOST will be the subject of another heated debate.

This is a free country. With congressmen for its members, such an anti-gambling bloc is even freer than others. It's not the true that the freedom of congressmen to swing their arms ends where the nose of the DOST begins.

* * *

NOBODY can therefore stop the so-called anti-gambling bloc from opposing gambling—whether legal or not. That the bloc will oppose gambling that's not legal, i.e. criminal, I can only hope so. It is illegal, forgodsakes!

Here in our Barangay Kusina Ni Maria, we do not want illegal gambling simply "opposed." We want the operators of the Casino Ni Maria also to go to jail.

They are criminals! forgodsakes! It is hard to send them to jail, precisely, because they are operating illegally. They are always hard to catch in the act, even if the police force is honest enough to try. Besides, they can always bribe their way out of jail.

They can do all the "opposing" they want, but I'm afraid those multimillionaire gambling lords cannot be deterred by such a mere "opposing."

The gambling lords will keep on raking it in. All that "opposing," therefore, will only have a bearing on Pagcor. It will stop only the legal gambling. All ye gambling lords, one more time all together now—"YEEPIE!"

* * *

ONE religious guy also denounces Pagcor. His reason is not clear to me, but it seems he is against any Pagcor expansion. This is bad—as in "immoral!" Imagine, this Pagcor is even trying to encroach into the business of the multibillionaire gambling lords!

"There was no justification for the expansion," the religious guy says in a press statement, which was most likely written in his mansion. "We have enough gambling in this poor country."

But that's why we are poor! All that income from gambling, all the hundreds of billions of pesos, all of it goes to the crooks. For whether or not we find Pagcor useful, gambling exists and will exist in this country. It's not as if Pagcor invented it.

In other countries, which are more progressive than ours, they try to make all forms of gambling legal, thereby putting all the billions of income under the control of the biggest crook of them all—Congress.

The legislature can then allot the money for things like roads, irrigation, and post-harvest facilities. No private investors want to touch such projects. They cannot make money. Those are things which any POOR country like ours needs more than sermons.

* * *

"A BIRD in the hand may be worth two in the bush," my Apong Oning used to teach Rading, who was my, father, "but only if you are not the bird."

That bird may still have a fighting chance to survive after all. I'm serious! They say too much pollution affects the potency of a man.

According to Rep. Miguel Zubiri, anyway, our cities are among the most polluted cities in the world, thanks partly to the toxins and carcinogens and sexual desire depressants, all coming from coal-fired power plants.

Zubiri filed a resolution in the House of Representatives, urging Napocor to shut down its coal power plants. Napocor has six of them. Zubiri noted that they are all the subject of complaints and protests from residents in their areas.

Besides, Zubiri said, the operation of those coal plants is not critical to the economy. The coal plants generate only 3,500 megawatts. Yet we have an excess supply of about 6,000 megawatts, which we pay for whether we use it for gambling or not.

* * *

IN the Senate, a similar proposal came from the succulent lips of the astonishingly stunning Sen. Loren Legarda who, even as the Senate majority floor leader, is already married, unfortunately.

She also asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to close down the coal plants of Napocor. She said the plants violate the Clean Air Act.

Fortunately this time, Legarda was one of the lawmakers who labored hard on that law, being its witting *ninang*—you know, principal sponsor. The law specifies some safety standards for plant emission, i.e. pollutants.

Among Legarda's beef is the mercury emission of the Napocor coal plants. The Greenpeace International said they emit 750 pounds of mercury every year.

That's a lot of mercury which stays in our surroundings forever, such as rivers which provide us only drinking water. That also means a lot of unhappy men and of course women—the female of the specie homo sapiens.

# SEC OKs Filinvest capital hike

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved an increase in the authorized capital of housing developer Filinvest Land Inc. to P10 billion from P6 billion mainly through the issuance of an 85-percent stock dividend.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, FLI said the SEC had approved a P3.5-billion stock dividend with record date of Aug. 27 to fund the planned capital increase.

The by-laws of FLI, which is controlled by the Gotianun family's Filinvest Development Corp., had likewise been amended to increase the number of directors from seven to nine. Jonathan Gotianun and FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap will immediately assume office as directors of FLI.

In its statement, FLI said its future growth would be driven by new and existing projects, such as the continuing development of flagship Brentville International in Biñan, Laguna.

The housing developer also announced that it would inaugurate open spaces at Serra Monte Mansions in Cainta, Rizal.

FLI was among the mostly traded issues at the PSE yesterday, closing at P1.92 or 12 centavos higher than the closing on Tuesday.

Parent firm FDC is currently under investigation by the SEC for alleged insider trading of FLI shares.

For its part, FDC said it did not gain anything from the sale of shares of FLI, but resorted to such sale only to help the latter retire a $100-million bond issue that matured last February.

FDC legal counsel Estelito Mendoza admitted that the company sold a little more than P100 million of FLI shares when shares were rising early this year, but explained that proceeds were used to help raise funds for FLI's maturing obligations.

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## GLOBALBANK SHARES

# Metrobank starts tender offer

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. will start today a tender offer to minority shareholders of subsidiary Global Business Bank Inc. to exchange shares in the latter for its own as part of the two banks' functional merger.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Metrobank said: "The (shares) exchange is intended to ensure that Globalbank shareholders will be in the same position as they would have been had a legal or statutory merger been effected between Globalbank and Metrobank."

The exchange, which will be made until Sept. 15, was set at the ratio of 1.97 Metrobank shares for every Globalbank share.

The plan is for Metrobank to integrate the operations of Globalbank through the acquisition of all or substantially all of the latter's assets and liabilities in lieu of a statutory merger.

Any fractional Metrobank share arising out of the application of the exchange ratio shall be paid in cash at the price equivalent to P31.29 per share, the disclosure said.

The sale of Globalbank shares to Metrobank and the sale of Metrobank shares to Globalbank shareholders will be consummated through a cross sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Globalbank shareholders who will not accept the exchange will remain as a stockholder of the company whose articles of incorporation and by-laws had been amended to become a holding company named "Global Business Holdings Inc."

Established in April 1997, Globalbank is a regular commercial bank, a joint venture between Metrobank and Tokai Bank of Japan. Metrobank is the biggest bank in the Philippines with over P273 billion in consolidated assets and 500 branches while Tokai is the 7th largest bank in Japan with a total asset base of $311.56 billion.

Globalbank was a product of an earlier merger with the former Philbank and AsianBank.

# Investments. . .

From page B1

fresh. So clearly, we're not expecting any big numbers," Roxas said.

Roxas said the liberalization of trade in the region and the formation of production-sharing agreements under the Asean Industrial Cooperation program "would mean lower top-line gross investment numbers than in the past."

But businessmen pointed to other factors much closer to home for the steep fall in BOI and Peza investments this year, which had been a big letdown considering the euphoria that greeted President Macapagal-Arroyo's entry into Malacañang last year.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said the fixation on the 2004 national elections has prevented government officials and legislators from doing their jobs in steering back the economy to recovery.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Meneleo Carlos said the government's failure to address the high costs of doing business in the country—from the lack of infrastructure to expensive utilities to widespread corruption—was a key factor for the loss of investor confidence in the country which was reflected in the anemic BOI and Peza investment data.

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, August 14, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 1,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 15.75 | 16 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 1,727,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 44.5 | 45.5 | 44.5 | 45 | 626,700 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 30 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 1,373,200 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 141,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 36 | 36.5 | 36 | 36 | 63,700 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 5,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 18.25 | 18.75 | 18.25 | 18.5 | 70,400 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.1 | 1.16 | 72,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1210 | 1210 | 1200 | 1210 | 70 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 920 | 920 | 910 | 910 | 370 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 21.75 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 9,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.55 | 0.58 | 0.55 | 0.56 | 2,980,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 497.5 | 497.5 | 495 | 495 | 920 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 40,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 1,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 1,600,000 |
| Piltel | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 2,360,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 295 | 300 | 295 | 295 | 74,030 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 3,300,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 1,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 29 | 29.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 223,700 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1.66 | 1.68 | 777,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 114,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 60,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 30,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.22 | 1.4 | 1.22 | 1.4 | 17,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 140,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13 | 13.25 | 13 | 13.25 | 148,400 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 710,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 48.5 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 767,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 71,400 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 4.15 | 4.15 | 4.15 | 4.15 | 14,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 130,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 2,669,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.28 | 2.3 | 2.28 | 2.3 | 621,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.48 | 2.6 | 2.48 | 2.6 | 75,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 33,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 2,390,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 100,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 1,300,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 40,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12 | 12 | 49,300 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 200,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 4.65 | 4.9 | 4.65 | 4.7 | 78,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 200,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 150,000 |
| Magnum Holdings Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1,350,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 1,900,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.16 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.19 | 60,000 |
| Philtread Holdings Corp. | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 201,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 1,540,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 530,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 200,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 70,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 21.75 | 22 | 21.75 | 21.75 | 233,200 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.8 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 21,684,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 50,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 1,050,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.195 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.2 | 6,090,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.82 | 1.98 | 1.82 | 1.92 | 15,897,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 100,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 10,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 1,000,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.9 | 6 | 5.9 | 6 | 4,635,000 |
| Universal Rightfield Prop. | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 300,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 5,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 11,000,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 203,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 20,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 60,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 4,082,440 | 99,526,160.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 28,558,150 | 104,586,050.00 |
| PRO | 50,816,000 | 192,943,910.00 |
| Mining | 16,000,000 | 41,800.00 |
| OIL | 203,080,000 | 563,400.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 302,536,590 | 397,661,320.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 450.54 | UP 2.03 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,540.63 | DOWN 7.09 |
| PRO | 542.82 | UP 21.92 |
| Mining | 1,110.96 | UNCH 0.00 |
| OIL | 1.38 | UP 0.03 |
| All Shares Index | 642.61 | DOWN 3.02 |
| Composite | 1,134.31 | UP 6.15 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 25;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,644

## CURRENCIES

Aug. 14, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.017294 | 1.000000 | 51.8580 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008568 | 0.008422 | 0.4367 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.563072 | 1.536500 | 79.6798 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.130424 | 0.128207 | 6.6486 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.684217 | 0.672585 | 34.8789 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.650444 | 0.639386 | 33.1573 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.579061 | 0.569217 | 29.5185 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.546932 | 0.537634 | 27.8806 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.698536 | 2.652661 | 137.5617 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.271279 | 0.266667 | 13.8288 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.576567 | 0.566765 | 29.3913 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000115 | 0.000113 | 0.0059 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024164 | 0.023753 | 1.2318 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.276996 | 0.272287 | 14.1203 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000852 | 0.000838 | 0.0435 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.983000 | 50.9764 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.282582 | 0.277778 | 14.4050 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.319402 | 0.313972 | 16.2820 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134652 | 0.132363 | 6.8641 |
| India | Rupee | 0.020966 | 0.020610 | 1.0688 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.267745 | 0.263193 | 13.6487 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.102230 | 0.100492 | 5.2113 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.469384 | 0.461404 | 23.9275 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.134372 | 0.132088 | 6.8498 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017126 | 0.016835 | 0.8730 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.096021 | 0.094389 | 4.8948 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108039 | 0.106202 | 5.5074 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.019791 | 0.019455 | 1.0089 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030277 | 0.029762 | 1.5434 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000738 | 0.000725 | 0.0376 |

# PBCom posts 28% profit jump

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications reported a 27.8-percent jump in net profit to P101.02 million in the first half of this year from P79.02 million in the same period in 2001.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PBCom said that higher trading and foreign exchange gains made up for lower net interest revenue and higher operating expenses.

As a result of aggressive trading in fixed-income securities and position-taking in foreign commercial papers and US dollar sovereign bonds, PBCom said its trading gains more than tripled from the previous year's P164.5 million to P530.2 million.

This accounted for the bulk of the increase in non-interest income, which made up for a P224-million decline in net interest revenue.

"The soft demand for credit and thinning margins due to the decline in interest rates reduced overall interest income by 35 percent and interest income on loans by 43 percent," PBCom said.

The bank's loan portfolio contracted by 8 percent to P18.4 billion as the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate declined from an average of 10.29 percent in the first semester of last year to 5.74 percent this year.

In line with the decline in interest rates, interest expenses dropped by 28 percent to P975 million.

PBCom said that this year, it has committed P82 million in capital expenditures, which would be funded by current operations and capital infused by shareholders.

## CABINET HILLS HOUSES, 'ANG PANGULO'

# Gov't lines up more assets for sale next year

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

CAMACHO

THE MACAPAGAL administration will pursue more aggressively the sale of government assets next year to help finance some P15 billion worth of expenditure items not included in the proposed budget for 2003, said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Camacho said the government would try to sell next year state-owned houses in Cabinet Hills, Baguio City; the presidential yacht "Ang Pangulo," and a big parcel of prime land adjacent to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa.

The sale of these assets is expected to generate for the government billions of pesos in revenues that can be used to finance the state's unprogrammed expenditures next year.

The government, he said, would also try anew to sell assets that were in the auction block for this year but were not sold. These assets, hoped to generate at least P2 billion in revenues, include the state's 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.; holdings in the Philippine National Construction Corp.; assets and equity in sequestered broadcast companies, and idle pieces of property including the prime land now occupied by the International School.

"We would like to generate more funds because any additional revenues on top of the original P2 billion target will be used to finance the government's unprogrammed expenditures," said the finance chief.

The government has so far sold assets this year. The amount was way below the government's privatization target for the year of P5 billion.

Camacho said he had asked the finance department to hold an inventory of all government assets, including those in other countries.

"The government has two properties in New York, one in San Francisco, one in Sydney, and also one in Bangkok. We also have properties in Japan," he said.

The inventory also forms part of a move to rationalize the use of

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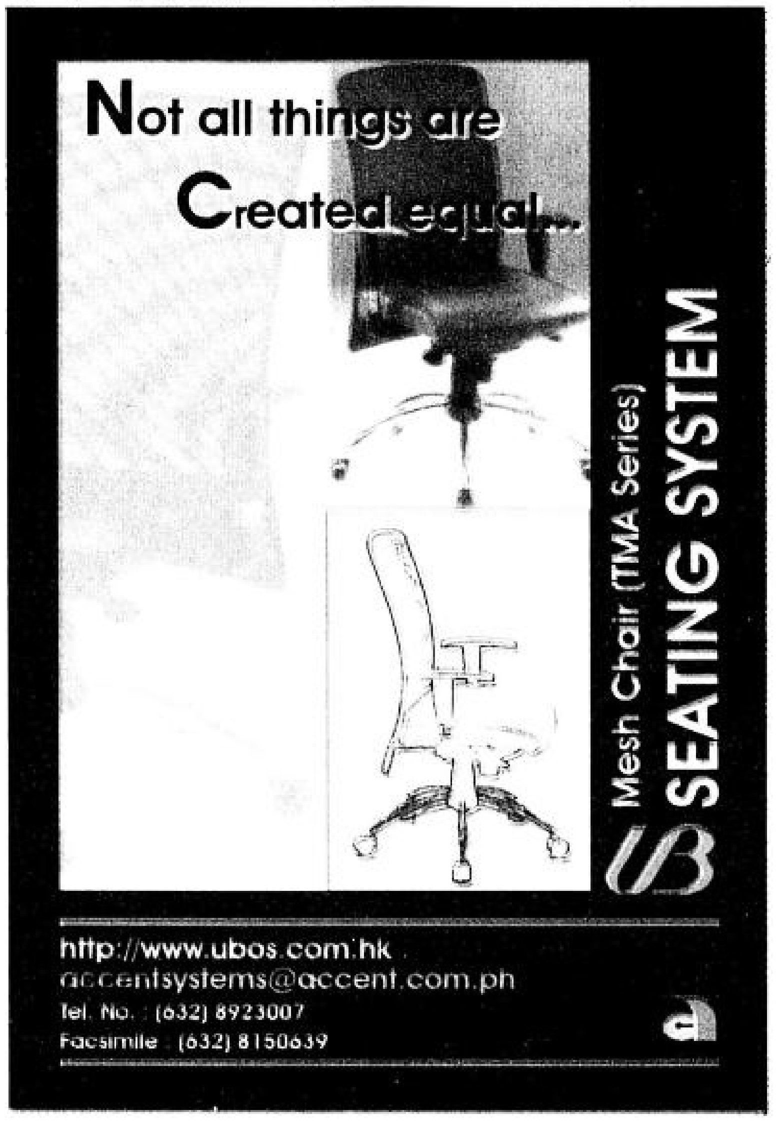

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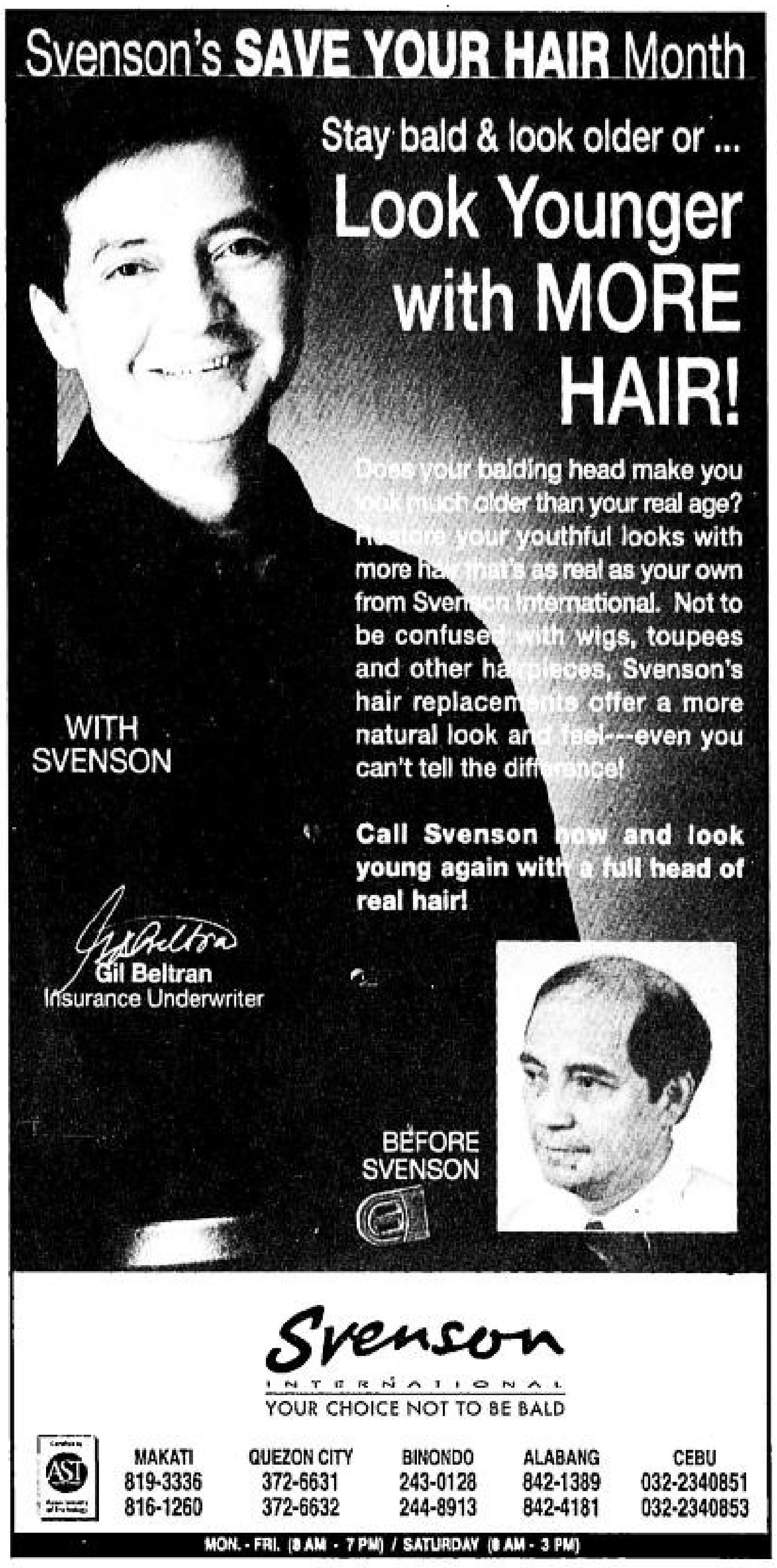

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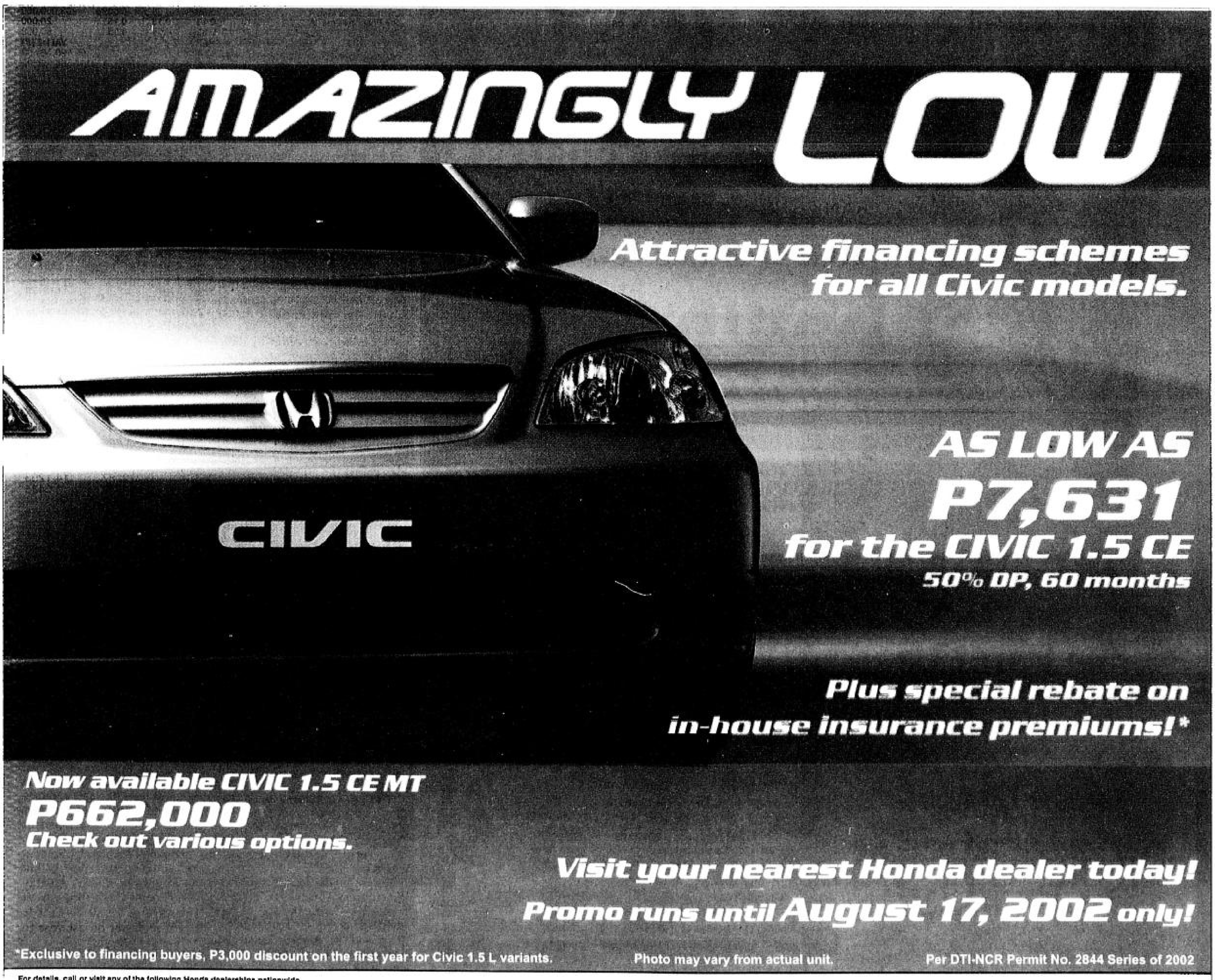

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HONDA

TARGET STILL REALISTIC

# Farm production up 3.17% in first six months

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

THE COUNTRY'S agricultural production grew by 3.17 percent in the first half of this year compared with the year-ago level, the agriculture department said yesterday.

Gross output amounted to P294.1 billion, the department said in a statement.

The growth of the sector, which accounts for about a fifth of gross domestic product (GDP), included gains of 1.9 percent in crops, 3.42 percent in livestock and 5.36 percent in fisheries. The farm sector also accounts for 40 percent of the country's entire labor force.

Although production growth from January to June this year was lower compared with last year's 4.32 percent, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said it was fairly reasonable and still within the growth target range of 2.7-3.6 percent for the whole year which was set in the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Plan. He said the whole year target had already taken into consideration the drought forecast for the last three months.

Montemayor, however, did not discount the possibility that the sector would hit only the lower end of the growth target for the year "due to a lot of uncertainties, particularly, weather disturbances that may hit the sector this year."

Montemayor traced the slower growth in farm production in the first six months of the year to weather disturbances. He said the first six months were not so good for the farm sector, which was hit by both a prolonged dry spell and typhoons during the period.

The prolonged dry spell, he said, delayed the planting activities of rice and corn farmers.

"There are still a lot of uncertainties that may affect the sector's performance, such as weather disturbances, so we think the lower end of the target is more achievable," Montemayor said.

# World Bank commends faster project implementation in RP

THE PACE of implementation of government projects supported by the World Bank improved notably over the past fiscal year ending June 2002, according to the World Bank.

This, according to a World Bank statement, is shown by the project's disbursement performance. It said the gross disbursements on World Bank-financed portfolio went up 8 percent to $136 million this year from last year's $126 million.

"After three consecutive years of declining performance, I am pleased to see this turnaround despite the difficulty in putting up counterpart funds brought about by the tight fiscal position of the country," said Robert Vance Pulley, country director for the Philippines. "This means that it will take a shorter period of time to deliver the services and infrastructure—such as schools and textbooks, clinics and health services, water, and other social services—to the intended poor communities," he continued.

An even more significant improvement was shown in the disbursement ratio, which is the percentage of available funds that are drawn down or spent on projects during the year. This ratio increased from 12 percent last year to 15 percent this year, a marked improvement of 25 percent. A 15-percent disbursement ratio implies a project implementation period of about 6.7 years compared with 8.4 years when the disbursement ratio was 12 percent.

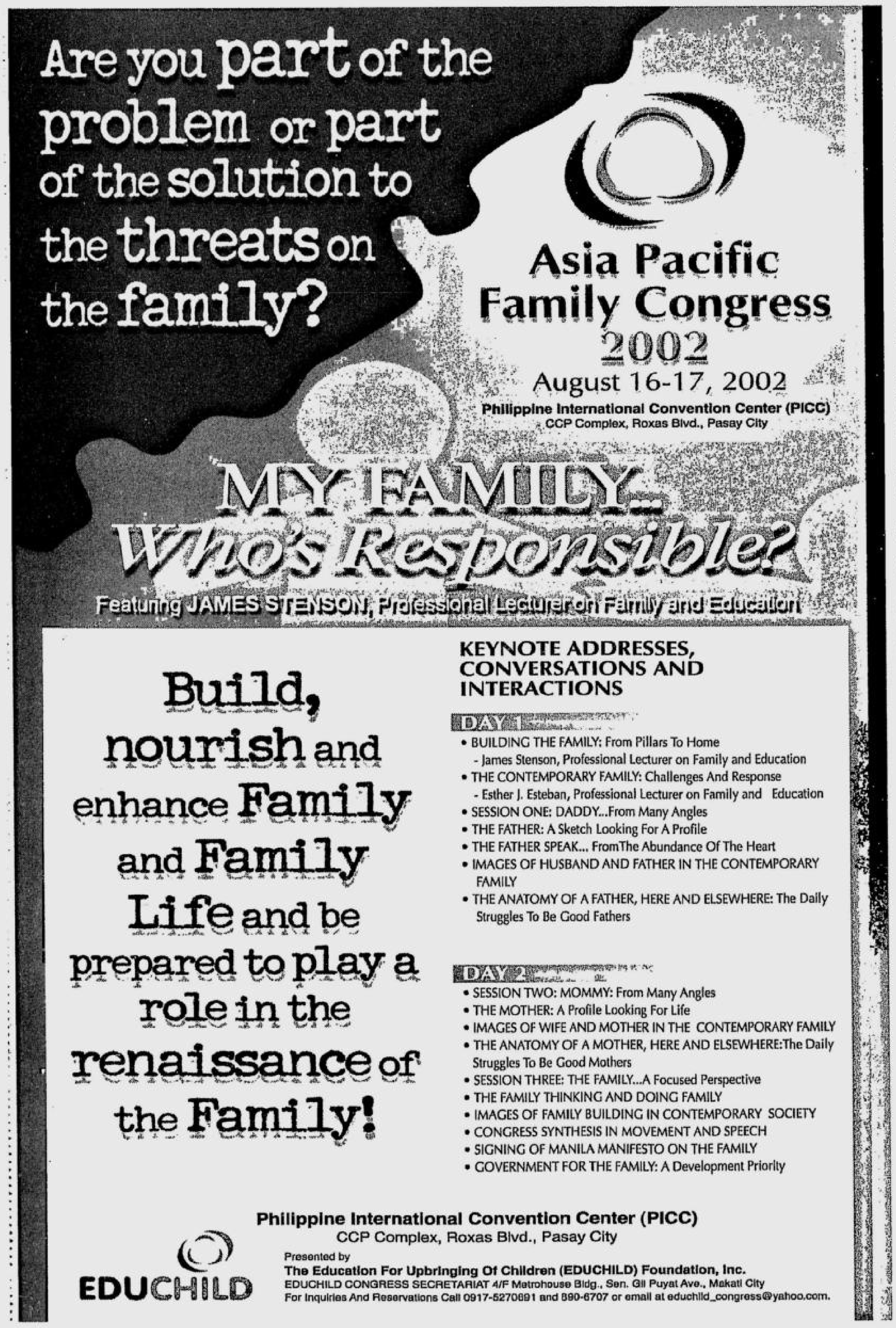
"But while this improvement is encouraging, the Philippines should further improve to at least a 20-percent disbursement ratio, given that most projects are planned for a five-year period," Pulley said. Prior to 1999, the Philippines was disbursing as much as 24 percent, implying a four-year implementation period.

Among the World Bank-assisted projects that registered impressive turnaround last year and implementing agencies were the Third Elementary Education Project, the Department of Education; the Social Expenditure Management Project, the Departments of Budget and Management, Social Work and Development, and Education, and the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

TEEP's disbursement ratio doubled from 8 percent to 16 percent, shortening the implementation period from 12 years to six years. Subic II's and SEMP's disbursement ratios increased dramatically—from 10 percent to 34 percent and from 5 percent to 33 percent, respectively. Besides this dramatic improvement in the pace of project implementation, DepEd was also able to generate textbook savings of about $20 million (P1 billion) by adopting procurement reforms.

**NEW MALL CONCEPT**

**Ayala Land Inc. recently launched the first value mall called Market! Market!, a uniquely designed 5-level mall to be built on a 9.7-hectare property along C-5 in Taguig. It will contain fresh flower markets, vegetable and fruit areas, themed bazaars, computer centers and a hawker's food center. The launch was attended by (from left) ALI president Francisco Licuanan III, Bases Conversion Development Authority chair Florencio Padernal, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, BCDA's Isaac Puno, BCDA president/CEO Rufo Colayco, ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and ALI SVP Miriam Katigbak.**



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  - Esther J. Esteban, Professional Lecturer on Family and Education
- SESSION ONE: DADDY...From Many Angles
- THE FATHER: A Sketch Looking For A Profile
- THE FATHER SPEAK... FromThe Abundance Of The Heart
- IMAGES OF HUSBAND AND FATHER IN THE CONTEMPORARY FAMILY
- THE ANATOMY OF A FATHER, HERE AND ELSEWHERE: The Daily Struggles To Be Good Fathers

DAY 2
- SESSION TWO: MOMMY: From Many Angles
- THE MOTHER: A Profile Looking For Life
- IMAGES OF WIFE AND MOTHER IN THE CONTEMPORARY FAMILY
- THE ANATOMY OF A MOTHER, HERE AND ELSEWHERE:The Daily Struggles To Be Good Mothers
- SESSION THREE: THE FAMILY...A Focused Perspective
- THE FAMILY THINKING AND DOING FAMILY
- IMAGES OF FAMILY BUILDING IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY
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# Industry groups seek delay in tariff cuts

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

FOUR basic industries led by petrochemicals will make a last-ditch attempt next week to convince the government to delay the duty cuts on their products that were committed under the Asean Free Trade Area.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Meneleo Carlos said industry players in petrochemicals, textile, paper, and rubber would go to the Tariff Commission on Aug. 23 to press their case.

The Tariff Commission will hold a public hearing on the common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) rates in view of the country's commitment to eliminate duties on 60 percent of the products in the inclusion list.

CEPT rates should go down to 5 percent and below on all products (except for a few sensitive items) starting next year.

"It's a last-ditch effort by these industries to maintain their protection and give them more time to adjust to tighter competition," Carlos explained.

Should the Tariff Commission agree to the tariff delay, Carlos said there would still be enough time to push for a deferment in the tariff cuts during the ministers meeting next month.

Carlos said protection was still needed because these industries have not yet developed enough to meet foreign competition head-on.

He cited the case of the petrochemical industry whose key players—such as JG Petrochemical Corp. and Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific—have been in operation for only four years compared to the decades of growth experienced by their peers in Asean, specifically Thailand and Malaysia.

"Petrochemicals is an infant industry that still deserves government protection. We think the last four years were not enough considering the marginal rate of protection," Carlos said.

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines has filed a petition with the Tariff Commission for an increase in tariffs on resins or polymers (the base material for plastic products) from 15 percent to 30 percent.

Carlos said the other industries were not ready for increasing competition from imports considering that their duties have been reduced at a much faster rate than other Asean countries and the high cost of doing business here have put them at a disadvantage.

Carlos said the four industries have focused their lobbying efforts on the Department of Trade and Industry, which he felt should champion industry rights.

# Copyright piracy in RP now a $60-M racket

THE GROWING underground industry of illegally reproducing and selling textbooks has led to revenue losses of about $60 million this year for local and international publishers, said intellectual property rights lawyer Gilbert T. Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices.

This year's estimated losses, he said, were 36 percent higher than last year's level.

The growing menace significantly influenced the decision of the US Trade Representative to place the country in the priority watchlist of intellectual property rights violators in the world.

Reyes said the country was now considered "the second largest book piracy haven in Asia" by the international business community.

He said the losses reflected the worsening copyright piracy situation in the country fueled by modern printing technologies "and the reported participation of academic personnel in the racket."

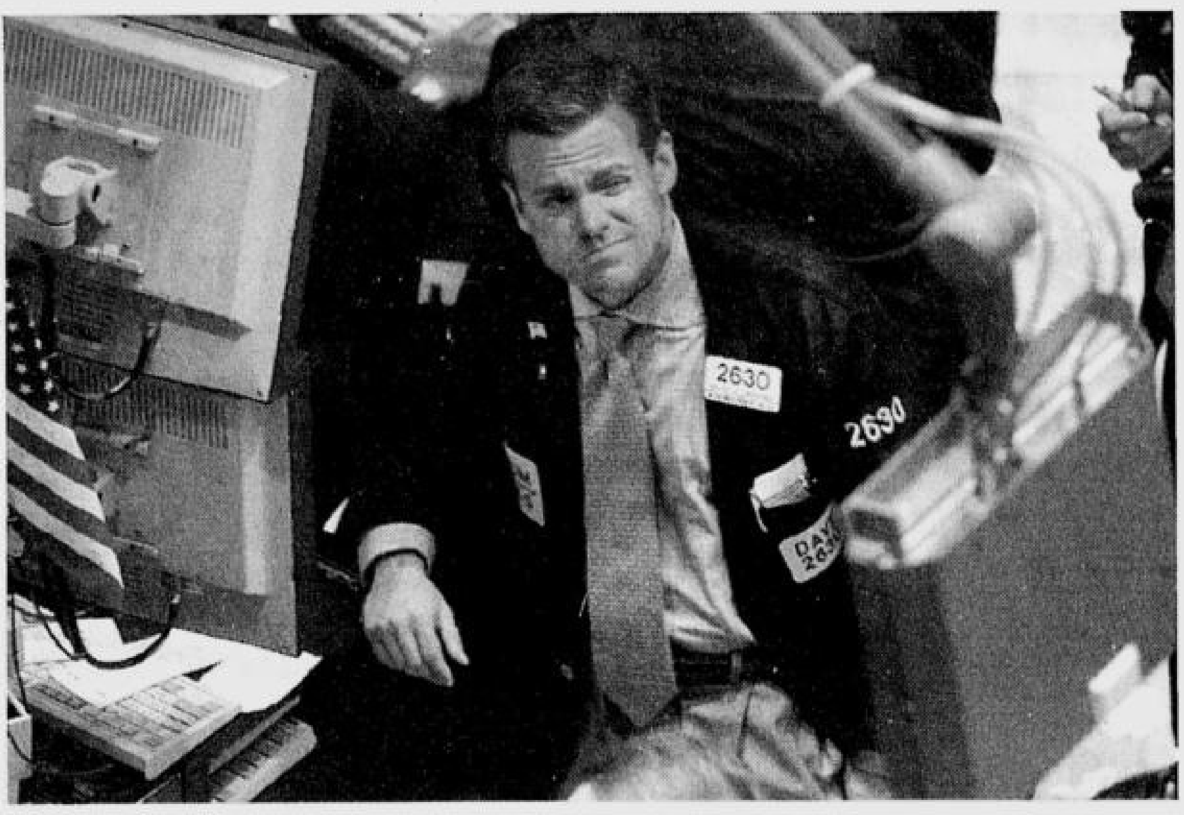
He said international publishers had appealed to the Philippine government to crack down on copyright pirates. There has been no criminal conviction of a copyright pirate in the country on record so far despite the so-called enforcement operation activities mounted by both police and justice authorities, Reyes said.

Reyes, however, cited efforts by the country to put teeth into the enforcement of copyright laws. He said the Supreme Court had designated 48 courts nationwide as "special IPR (intellectual property rights) courts." The move, however, was not sufficient to stem the growth of textbook piracy in the country.

The legitimate local and international publishing industries are hoping that IPR courts will expeditiously process piracy cases and hand down increased deterrent sentences authorized by the new Intellectual Property Code, Reyes said.

He pointed out that the growing copyright piracy problem was harming the prospects for educators and students to access updated legitimate US intellectual products. The racket has discouraged international publishers from making updated editions of scientific, technical and medical textbooks available to the Philippine academic community.

# Federal Reserve leaves key rates unchanged



A TRADER works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 206.43 points to finish at 8,482.26 after the Federal Reserve decided to leave interest rates unchanged. AFP

NEW YORK—US Federal Reserve policymakers voted to hold interest rates steady at a 40-year low on Tuesday but indicated they were ready to cut if the scandal-struck economy deteriorated.

Weak financial markets and uncertainty triggered by a slew of corporate accounting misdeeds had prolonged weak demand that emerged earlier this year, Federal Open Market Committee members said in a statement.

The current federal funds target rate of 1.75 percent appeared to be low enough, however, they said after a unanimous vote.

"The current accommodative stance of monetary policy, coupled with still-robust underlying growth in productivity, should be sufficient to foster an improving business climate over time," they said.

But the committee changed its stance on the outlook for inflation and economic growth, saying, "The risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness."

That statement was a broad signal to the market that the Federal Reserve stood ready to cut the short-term rate if needed.

At its previous meeting on June 26, the Federal Reserve, led by its powerful chair, 76-year-old Alan Greenspan, had said the risks were balanced.

"Alan Greenspan is the new Solomon. He tries to splice the baby in half," said Joel Naroff, chief economist and president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

"For those who wanted rate cuts, he changed the bias. For those who did not want the rate cut, he did not touch the rates," Naroff said.

The decision amounted to an admission that the equity markets presented grave risks while the underlying economy suggested that the threats might not materialize, he said.

"I think down deep the members of the committee do not want to come out and say it is accountants and stock markets that are driving our interest rate decisions," Naroff said.

"So they gave it lip service but did not pull the trigger."

US expectations performed a U-turn from one month ago, when most analysts were tipping a rise in interest rates to unwind the dramatic easing over the past 18 months.

Since then, the relentless slide in the stock market and news of only sluggish economic growth—1.1 percent in the April-June quarter after a 5-percent expansion in the first quarter—have darkened the outlook.

But Naroff pointed to data out Tuesday showing retail sales rose 1.2 percent in July, helped by strong motor vehicle sales, and to recent figures showing the jobs market strengthening.

"If we keep getting retail sales figures like we did today and the labor market keeps on firming like it has been, there is no reason for them to cut," he said.

Wall Street, initially unaffected by the move, tumbled in closing trade.

The Dow Jones industrials average of 30 top stocks dropped 206.43 points to 8,482.46. The wider Standard and Poor's 500 index fell 19.58 points to 884.22. *AFP*

# IBM cuts 15,000 jobs; officers certify financials

SAN FRANCISCO—Computing giant IBM Corp. on Tuesday put firm numbers on previously announced job layoffs and added that its top executives certified the company's 2001 and 2002 financial statements.

According to filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the company is in the midst of shedding 14,213 workers from its Global Services division and other departments.

Global Services is the company's Internet service and consulting business.

The company also said in its filings it was in the process of cutting 1,400 jobs from its microelectronics division.

The giant computer manufacturing and services company announced job cuts in June and again in July but without giving such specific numbers.

"The reductions are to drive efficiencies and productivity throughout the company," said IBM spokesperson Carol Makovitch late Tuesday.

Makovitch said 57 percent of those working the Global Services division and other departments had already left the company, with the rest slated to hit the door in September. Only 3 percent of those in the microelectronics division have left, the spokesperson added.

Makovitch said the balance of the microelectronics layoffs would take place by the end of August.

The company also said chief executive Samuel Palmisano and chief financial officer John Joyce certified the company's financial statements in compliance with new SEC rules enacted after the massive fraud allegations surfaced against the leaders of Enron Corp., WorldCom Inc. and other companies.

In April, Palmisano delivered a gloomy outlook for technology spending to employees and suggested the need for cost-cutting to adjust to the sluggishness of the tech sector. *AFP*

# Soros proposes regulation of global financial markets

SINGAPORE—Billionaire George Soros, the man vilified by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for speculative raids on Asian currencies, has called for regulation of financial markets in an article published here.

The US financier and philanthropist said the apparent failure of a multibillion-dollar International Monetary Fund package to rescue Brazil from financial crisis had shown "that something is fundamentally wrong" with the global financial system.

"In recent years, the so-called Washington consensus, as espoused by the IMF and World Bank, has put its faith in the self-correcting nature of financial markets. That faith was and is misplaced," Soros wrote in a syndicated article published in Singapore's Straits Times newspaper. *AFP*

# US corporate fraud cop himself accused of fraud

WASHINGTON—The US official charged with cleaning up Enron-like corporate scandals stands himself accused of corporate fraud in a lawsuit to be filed by an anti-corruption watchdog group.

The lawsuit to be filed in US District Court in San Francisco names Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, head of the newly formed Corporate Crime Task Force, as a defendant, along with Providian Financial Corp., a credit-card company that Thompson once served as a director, Judicial Watch said.

The lawsuit by the conservative group, better known for its attacks on the Democratic administration of former president Bill Clinton, is more bad news for Republican President George W. Bush as he seeks to distance himself from a wave of multibillion-dollar corporate accounting scandals that have rocked the US economy.

The lawsuit against the government's corporate crime snoop coincides with a deadline imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission on 697 company bosses to swear to the accuracy of their accounts.

The CEOs will be the first of a total 947 business leaders expected to sign statements of accuracy in a move by US regulators to restore confidence among shaken investors. Other companies will provide statements later, depending on the timing of their business years.

Judicial Watch has filed a similar lawsuit against Vice President Dick Cheney for his actions as chief executive of Halliburton, an energy services company. Bush also has had to fend off questions about his role as a director of the now-defunct oil company Harken Energy. *AFP*

# Hong Kong not answering call to buy 2.5G cell phones

HONG KONG—Despite Hong Kong's position as one of the world's most saturated mobile communications markets, cell phone users have been reluctant to buy new generation handsets.

According to figures released by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority on Tuesday, only 85,984 customers purchased new generation 2.5G handsets by June, a small increase from 74,870 a month earlier.

Newer generation phones offer users faster download speeds and provide access to information, games and email services.

Telecom analysts noted the slow uptake by consumers in Hong Kong is in stark contrast to other Asian hi-tech hubs such as Korea and Japan.

More than 7 million of Korea's 30 million mobile phone users currently use 2.5G, with the figure tipped to soar to 15 million by the end of the year. Japan boasts 5 million 2.5G subscribers among its 70 million mobile users.

In comparison, some 5.82 million, or around 90 percent, of Hong Kong's population of 6.6 million people are mobile phone subscribers, but the vast majority use the previous generation 2G network.

Fewer than 2 percent have purchased 2.5G phones, which cost around HK$3,000 ($385), since their launch late last year.

Telecoms analyst at Dao Heng Securities Ben Tam attributed the slow uptake of the 2.5G service to the high tariffs levied by local operators for downloading data services. *AFP*

# Greenpeace founder backs use of biotech in agriculture

BANGKOK—The influential founder of controversial international pressure group Greenpeace has called on Third World nations to "go ahead and use biotechnology in agriculture," saying it can help farmers in developing countries "grow more food per hectare."

In an interview, former Greenpeace president Patrick Moore cited the social and environmental benefits of biotechnology to agriculture even as he warned that the public might be open to "misinformation and scare tactics" due to the failure of government and industries to provide information about it.

Moore's statement supporting biotechnology drew a setback to a reported $175-million international pressure campaign by the Europe-based Greenpeace against biotechnology.

Earlier, Greenpeace warned the Philippines of "millions of dead bodies and diseases" resulting from the use of biotechnology in agriculture. The threat came in the wake of government efforts to introduce biotech crop varieties in a bid to reduce dependence on imported rice and corn.

Greenpeace admitted it was conducting a global campaign against biotechnology.

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**GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM**
*Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308*

July 15, 2002

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1-2002

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS, JUDICIAL, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENTS OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, MANAGING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND/OR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, MEMBERS OF SANGGUNIAN, METRO MANILA/CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND TREASURERS, ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, COLLECTING AND/OR DISBURSING OFFICERS THEREOF; AUDITORS, CHIEF, FINANCE SERVICE, AFP, PNP, AND OTHERS CONCERNED.

SUBJECT : ADOPTING AN ADJUSTED SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR EFFECTIVE CY 2003 AND POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ITS NON REMITTANCE

ECC Board Resolution No. 02-04-235 dated April 11, 2002, as amended by Referendum Resolution No. 02-07-235-A dated July 24, 2002 (copies attached), **has adopted an updated Schedule of Employees Compensation contributions for the public sector by increasing the maximum amount of contribution to the GSIS-SIF from Php 30 to 1% of the basic salary or Php 100 per month per employee whichever is lower effective Calendar Year 2003, subject to review at anytime thereafter.**

It shall be **mandatory** for the employer to pay the monthly contribution above stated effective January 2003.

Corollary to the above resolution, the GSIS Board of Trustees under Resolution No. 102 dated April 17, 2002 has approved a policy in cases of non-remittance of EC Contributions, this rule shall apply:

> "Stop the payment of all types of EC claims of Employees of government agencies who fail to implement the increase in EC contributions and remit the same to the GSIS effective January 2003."

For compliance.

**(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA**
*President and General Manager*

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
**EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**
3rd Floor, ECC Building, 355 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, City of Makati
Tel. No. 890-4765 * Fax No. 897-7597
E-mail: ecc@conn.com.ph * Website: http://www.ecc.org.ph

## REFERENDUM RESOLUTION NO. 02-07-235-A

### Amending Board Resolution No. 02-04-235, Adopting an Updated Schedule of EC Contributions for the Public Sector

**WHEREAS,** Board Resolution No. 02-04-235 was passed by the Board last 11 April 2002 setting the rate of government contributions to the State Insurance Fund (SIF) at Php100/employee/month;

**WHEREAS,** the Commission has been apprised by the GSIS in a letter dated 27 June 2002 that many national and local government employees are still being paid a basic salary of less than Php10,000.00 a month and therefore, setting the monthly government contribution to the SIF at Php 100/employee/month will not be in keeping with Article 183 of P.D. 626, as amended, which has set the baseline for employers' contributions at one percent (1%) of the employees' monthly salary credit;

**WHEREAS,** the GSIS, upon proper representation of its official representative in the Employees' Compensation Commission has requested during its 13th Regular Meeting dated 24 July 2002 for an appropriate amendment of the above numbered Resolution:

**WHEREFORE, FOREGOING PREMISES DULY CONSIDERED,**

**RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** to amend the dispositive portion of Board Resolution No. 02-04-235 to read as follows:

> "**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to amend Rule V, Section 1, paragraph 1 of the Amended Rules on Employees' Compensation by increasing the maximum amount of contribution to the GSIS-SIF from Php30 to 1% of the basic salary or Php100 per month per employee whichever is lower effective Calendar Year 2003, subject to review at anytime thereafter;"

**RESOLVED FURTHER** to furnish the Government Service Insurance System, the Department of Budget and Management and other government agencies a copy of amended Resolution No. 02-04-235 for them to undertake the necessary actions to implement the same;

**APPROVED,** in Makati City, Metro Manila, 24 July 2002.

**HON. LUCITA S. LAZO**
*Chairman-Designate*

**HON. FELICIDAD A. GUTIERREZ**
*Member-Designate*
*Government Service Insurance System*

**HON. ARTURO G. SAN GABRIEL**
*Member-Designate*
*Social Security System*

**HON. MIGUEL B. VARELA**
*Member Representing Employers*

**HON. VLADIMIR R. TUPAZ**
*Member Representing Employees*

**HON. MA. MARGARITA M. GALON**
*Member-Designate*
*Philippine Health Insurance Commission*

**HON. ELMOR D. JURIDICO**
*Member*
*Employees'Compensation Commission*

## BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 02-04-235

### ADOPTING AN UPDATED SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

**WHEREAS,** Articles 177 and 183 (b) of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 626, empower this Commission to determine the rate of increases in Employees' Compensation (EC) contributions whenever necessary to preserve the solvency of the State Insurance Fund (SIF);

**WHEREAS,** Rule V, Section 1 par. (1) of the Amended Rules on Employees' Compensation provides that the rate of contribution to the GSIS-SIF, which is being administered by the GSIS, is equivalent to one percent of the basic salary but not to exceed Php30 per month per employee;

**WHEREAS,** this rate of contribution, pegged by the Commission in 1979 through Resolution No. 1451, has remained the same up to the present;

**WHEREAS,** the incidence and levels of benefits for work-connected illnesses and injuries have increased such that since 1983, the total amount of benefits paid for workers' claims have exceeded the total amount of contributions collected by the GSIS-SIF. Consequently, the GSIS-SIF was unable to accumulate enough funds that could have generated investment earnings to pay part of benefit claims;

**WHEREAS,** since 1984, the GSIS-SIF has experienced losses that depleted its surplus and starting 1992, it was forced to resort to inter-fund borrowings from the GSIS Optional Life Insurance Fund (OLIF) and General Insurance Fund (GIF) to pay all claims;

**WHEREAS,** the insufficiency of contributions to pay all EC claims is aggravated by the failure of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other agencies to pay all their arrearages in EC contributions to the GSIS for the period 1992 to the present;

**WHEREAS,** as of December 31, 2001, the GSIS-SIF has total inter-fund borrowings of Php3.2 billion and negative surplus of Php2.6 billion;

**WHEREAS,** to restore the actuarial solvency of the GSIS-SIF, to increase EC benefits to the level enjoyed by private sector workers, and to pay all inter-fund borrowings, the GSIS, upon the instruction of the Commission, conducted an actuarial study proposing an increase in the maximum amount of contribution from Php 30 per month per employee to Php 100 per month per employee effective Calendar Year 2003;

**WHEREAS,** the Commission had advised the DBM, as early as 2000, of the financial status of the GSIS-SIF, and of the need to collect all arrearages in contributions immediately and to increase the rate of contribution;

**WHEREAS,** the GSIS has stopped inter-fund borrowings in order to preserve the financial viability of its OLIF and GIF. Consequently, not all EC claims can be paid because of the insufficiency of contributions collected;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to amend Rule V, Section 1 par. 1 of the Amended Rules on Employees' Compensation by increasing the maximum limit of contributions to the GSIS-SIF from Php30 to Php100 per month per employee effective Calendar Year 2003, subject to review anytime thereafter;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** to urge the DBM and other government agencies to immediately remit to the GSIS-SIF all arrearages in EC contributions;

**RESOLVED FINALLY,** to exhaust all means within its power to ensure that the increase in the EC contributions to a maximum of Php100 per month per employee is duly included in the General Appropriations Bill and the respective budgets of other government agencies, and for this purpose, provide the DBM and other government agencies a copy of this Resolution for them to undertake the necessary actions to implement this Resolution;

**APPROVED,** in Quezon City, 11 April 2002.

**HON. BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO, JR.**
*Chairman-Designate*

**HON. ARNALDO C. QUASAY**
*Member-Designate*
*representing the GSIS*

**HON. ARTURO G. SAN GABRIEL**
*Member-Designate*
*representing the SSS*

**HON. MIGUEL B. VARELA**
*Member representing*
*Employers*

**HON. VLADIMIR R. TUPAZ**
*Member representing*
*Employees*

**HON. MARGARITA M. GALON**
*Member-Designate*
*representing the PHIC*

**HON. ELMOR D. JURIDICO**
*Member representing*
*the ECC*

***August 15, 2002 -- Inquirer***

SHOP AND SWIPE LIFESTYLE EXHIBIT

# 'Yes, Neo, this is the One'

**By Marlet D. Salazar**

CRUNCHING codes, killing brain cells, and flipping through TV channels are what Neo does to bide his time. He lays his tired body on his old worn-out couch situated just beside his ancient mattress. At the corner of the cramped room, with books and discs all over the place, is his computer resting on top of the deteriorating office table. Looking around, he sighs. The room exemplifies the kind of life Neo is leading: all work, no play, no life.

Yet, there's one thing that keeps him going: The dream of someday owning the latest in home theater systems. Yes, Virginia, our hero is a dreamer.

Grabbing the TV's remote control, he surfs through the limited UHF channels, finally sticking to reruns of "Survivor." Suddenly, the screen goes blank. "Oh, man! Not again!" Neo exclaims. He hears a voice on the TV set: "Hey, Neo, there's hope. Just follow Roger Rabbit." Surprised but not afraid, our hero asks, "What do you mean?"

In a split second Neo is out of his world. He finds himself in a room, then a beautiful lady named Trinity leads him to another room. Clad in a gray trench coat is a man, Morpheus, who asks him, "Do you want to make your dream come true?"

"Who doesn't?" Neo replied.

Morpheus takes out two pills from his pocket: one red and one blue. "Here's the deal. You take the blue pill, we'll bring you to Alabang Town Center (ATC) and there you'll find out how to fulfill your dreams. The catch is, your life will never be the same. You can't go back."

Neo attempts to get the blue pill but Morpheus continues, "You take the red pill and you'll stay this way forever."

Without hesitation, Neo swallows the blue pill. He experiences a different sensation in his head. "Load us up, Trinity," Morpheus says. "By the way, Neo, don't forget your credit cards."

### The exhibit

Resting on the two-seater Lazy-Boy recliner, Morpheus invites his protégé to join him. "This is the real world, Neo. Automatic Centre's and Blims Furniture's 11-day exhibit will make your dreams come true." The Shop and Swipe Lifestyle Exhibit is an appliance and furniture fair which will run from Aug. 12 to 22, more than enough time for him to better his life, Morpheus ponders.

"You have a wide array of choices from the popular appliance brands featured here. There's Aiwa, Carrier, Condura, Electrolux, Kelvinator, La Germania, LG, National, Panasonic, Philips, Sharp, Whirlpool, White-Westinghouse, Moulinex, Krups, Dowell and Blims fine furniture," Morpheus explains.

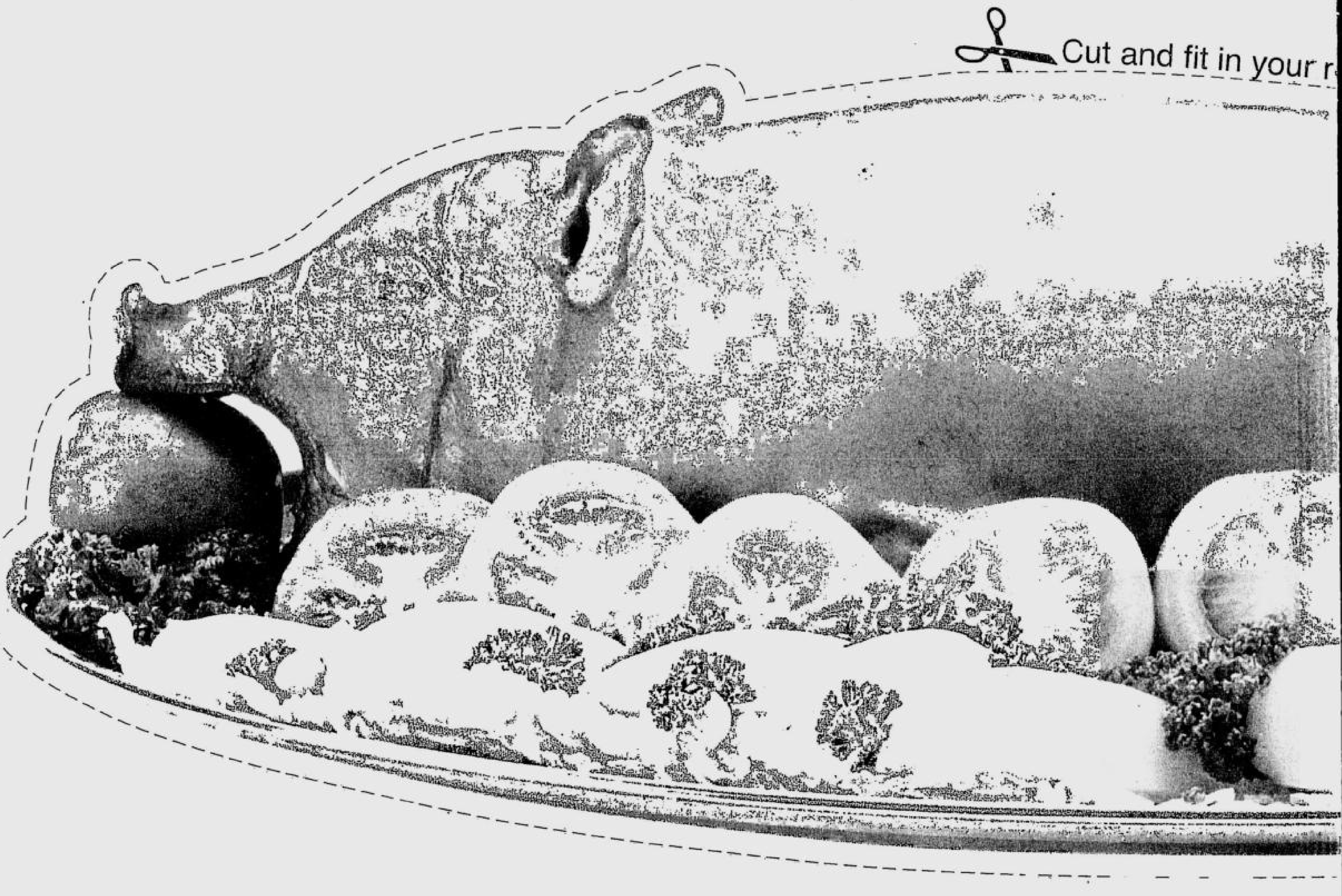
"Automatic Centre also tied up with major credit card companies to give interested buyers lots of choices. You must keep in mind that all credit card installment plans have reduced their interest rates for the whole month of August," he adds.

The atmosphere is noisy, what with the throng who have trooped to the exhibit area at the Activity Center of ATC. All of them—cash or credit card buyers—can avail of the huge promo deals prepared for them by Automatic. Television sets of major brands and of many sizes are turned on. The latest in DVD players grace the exhibit, too. The ear-piercing sound of video and audio components are blaring in the hallways.

### Amenities

Meanwhile, Trinity and the gang are glued to the new model of Flatron TV waiting to witness how Neo will fare in the choice of amenities Automatic Centre has to offer. Will he avail himself of the **zero-percent interest installment plan**

Automatic
CENTRE
Shop n' Swipe
AIG CARDS
LIFESTYLE EXHIBIT
BLIMS fine furniture
TOWN
AUG. 12-22,2002
NEW WING ACTIVITY CENTER



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Transparent Freezer Door
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Slide-out Chiller Tray
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# Automatic CENTRE

You have a wide array of choices from the popular appliance brands featured here. There's Aiwa, Carrier, Condura, Electrolux, Kelvinator, La Germania, LG, National, Panasonic, Philips, Sharp, Whirlpool, White-Westinghouse, Moulinex, Krups, Dowell and Blims fine furniture

on selected appliances using his credit card? Will he buy the **Warranty Plus**? "What if he fails?" one of them asks. Another answers, "Everyone always makes it the first time."

Ah. . .decisions, decisions, Neo thinks. In front of him is the complete set of the home theater system he had long desired to possess. He turns to Morpheus and asks for help. "My friend, come with me and we'll find help from the Oracle," Morpheus says.

Once inside the plush restaurant in the mall, Neo, Morpheus, and the Oracle sit down to discuss Neo's dilemma. "Don't worry, my child, I will help you make the right decisions. Anyway, whatever deal you choose, you'll never lose. Automatic Centre assures that the buying public will all go home happy and contented," the Oracle enthuses.

"Now I will lay before you the many amenities this exhibit offers. Be patient," says the Oracle, "First in line is the **Money-Back Guarantee** which is available all year round in the branch network and is also offered in this exhibit. It's a 14-day price warranty that allows you to buy with confidence. If you find that the item you bought from them is a few bucks higher than the same item you find in another store, you are assured the price difference will be given back to you. Simply show concrete proof of the lower price.

"Second is the **Warranty Plus extended warranty** which Automatic Centre makes available in conjunction with Philam. Once you buy an item, a major appliance that is, you have the option to buy Warranty Plus coverage for it. This is a warranty in addition to the one-year warranty the appliance manufacturer gives. Your choice of one year, two years or four years added coverage. Remember you only pay once for Warranty Plus and you save on repair bills throughout your coverage.

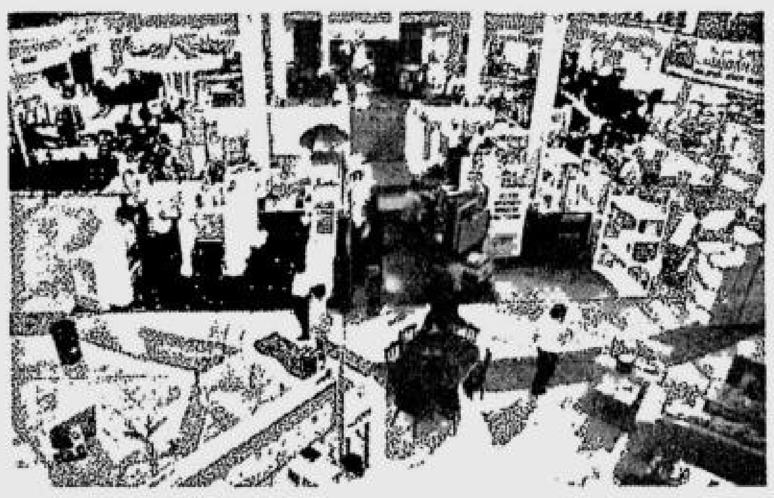
"Third is the **Replacement Advantage**. This is quite similar to the Warranty Plus but applies only to 'small' appliances like coffee maker, vacuum cleaner, electric fan, etc. Now here's how it works. If the product you bought gives up on you after the regular one-year manufacturer's warranty, you just bring the item and it will be automatically replaced by a brand-new unit of the same model."

Neo smiles at these options the Oracle presented. Where was he all his life? He cannot contain the excitement and prods the Oracle to continue.

"Fourth is the **Rewards Plus** acceptance which has been going on for several years. I'm sure you have already availed of this facility in your past purchases. You earn points each time you buy at Automatic Centre. Of course you have to present your Reward Plus Card."

Neo was able to prove what Morpheus had said in their first meeting, "You can't go back!" Indeed. Because now his old TV set is replaced by a 50-inch projection TV complete with the latest DVD player, while beside it is the newest audio-video component with ear-splitting sound system. He now enjoys a brand-new refrigerator, a gas range, a coffee maker, and everything a real house needs. His prized computer rests contentedly on a wooden table accessorized with an ergonomic chair. Everything is spic and span. Imagine!

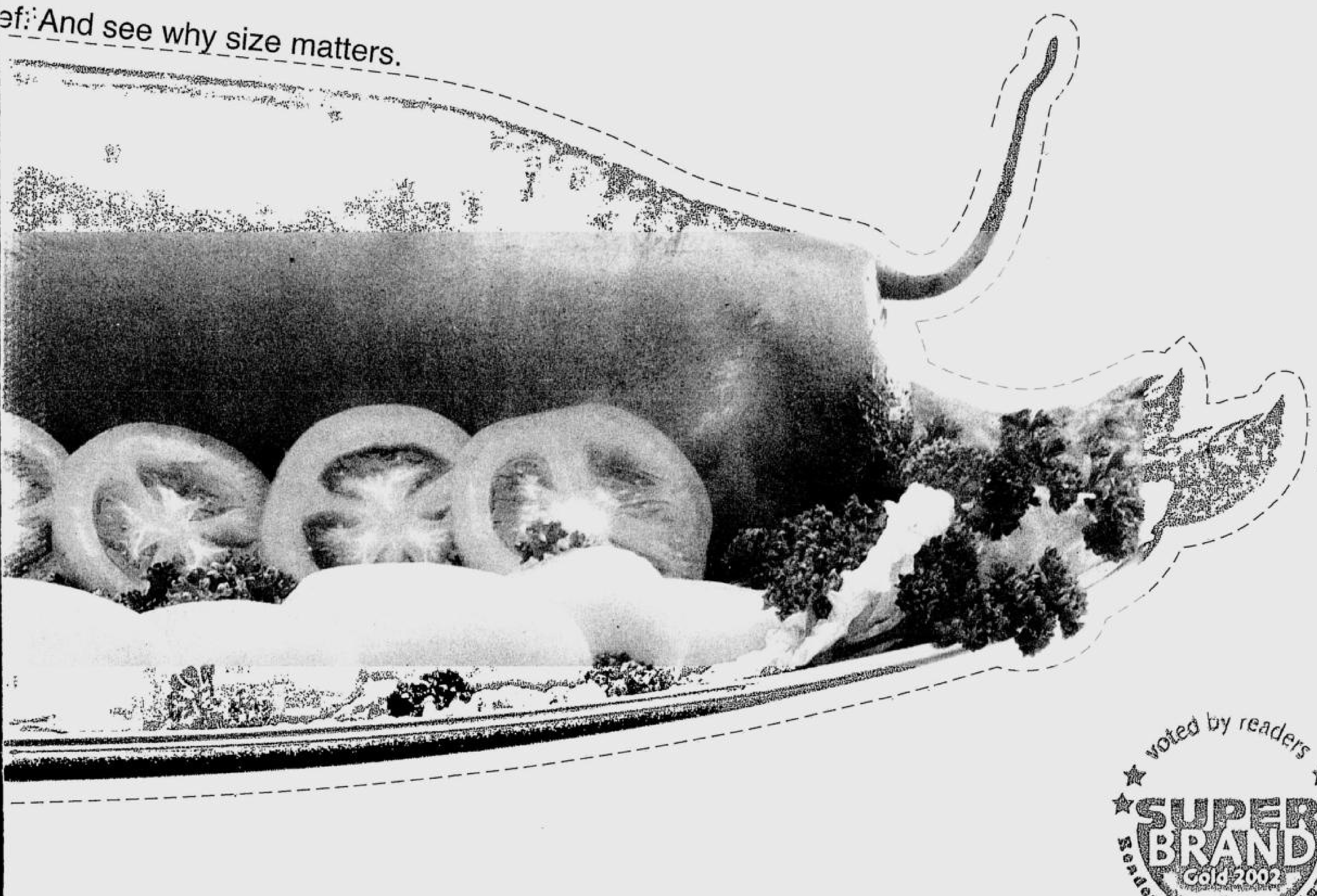
Meanwhile, at the showroom of Automatic Centre at ATC, Morpheus approaches the sales personnel and asks if the couple Neo and Trinity is included in the Bridal Gift Registry service. You see, the couple gave their soon-to-be godfather a letter inviting him to buy his wedding gift at the appliance center.



Automatic CENTRE
Pioneer DVD

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

ef: And see why size matters.



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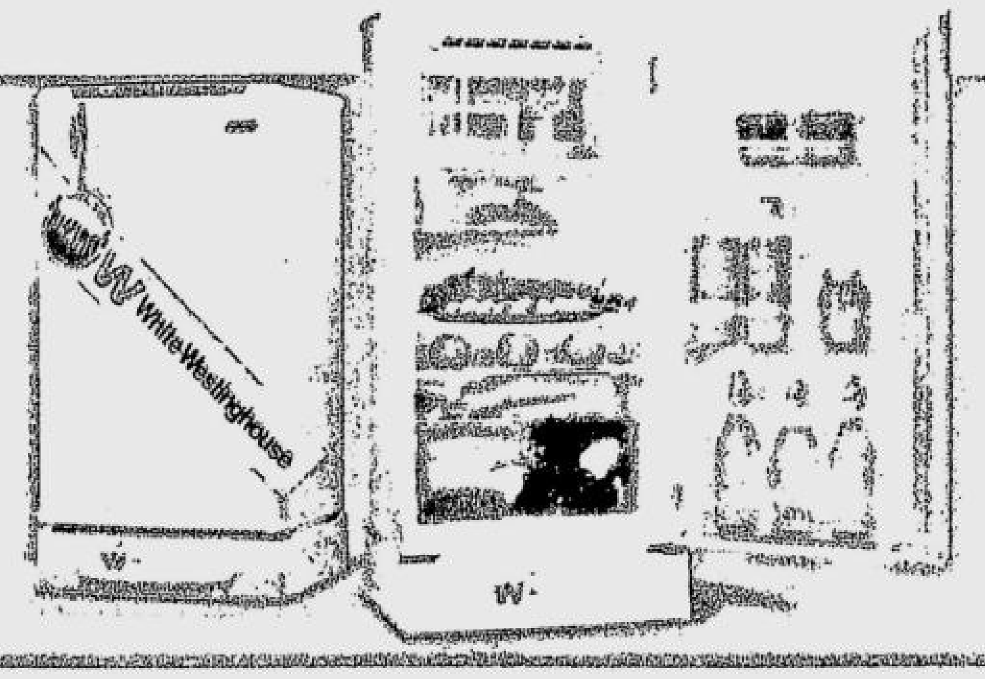

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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## New landmark on La Salle Manila campus

A NEW 9-story building housing the central administrative offices of De La Salle University, will be inaugurated today.

Named the Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall in honor of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco's father, the new edifice, according to Brother Rolando Dizon, FSC, president of the De La Salle University System, will be "the nerve center of the university as well as the hub of university activities with its theater and teleconference rooms."

The building is a donation of Ambassador Yuchengco, Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations and chair of the Yuchengco Center.

The building has four elevators, four exit stairways, 20 classrooms, six teleconference rooms and a three-story auditorium that can seat 1,100 persons. The auditorium is named Teresa G. Yuchengco Auditorium, in honor of the late wife of Ambassador Yuchengco.

The Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall has a total floor area of 12,254 sqm. It will also house the Yuchengco Center, a research center that conducts studies on Northeast and Southeast Asian economic cooperation and foreign relations.

Dr. Wilfrido Villacorta, president of the center, said, "This new home of our center will enable us to expand our research projects and library, sponsor more forums and host more visiting scholars."

The building's construction began June 2000, at the former site of the Bro. Athanasius gym. Today, the building is nearly 100-percent complete, and has been ready for occupancy since the last week of June 2002. All services (mechanical, electrical, plant and plumbing) are nearly complete with the chillers, elevators, and fire protection system currently being commissioned and tested. The building is controlled by a central computer for building automation, particularly in the air-conditioning and fire protection systems.

The building is of neo-classical architecture, a motif seen in most of De La Salle University's establishments. It also has splendid floor finishes, made of granite, and has the most intricate precast materials used in the university.

The De La Salle University-Enrique T. Yuchengco Central Administration Building project is headed by engineer Aurellano Dela Cruz, vice president for system administrative services of De La Salle University, and Bro. Crisanto Moreno FSC, director of De La Salle-Antipolo, with EEI Corp. as the main contractor. The architects are Ricardo SD Gutierrez and Lerma Evangelista.

The Teresa G. Yunchengco Auditorium, occupying the seventh, eighth and ninth floors of the new Don Enrique T. Yuchengco Hall of De La Salle University, will also be inaugurated today.

The auditorium has state-of-the-art facilities equipped for cultural performances and commencement exercises. The seventh floor has four levels, the first three of which include the main theater, the orchestra lobby, a dressing room, a service elevator lobby and a dinner room, while the fourth level is the concessionaire area.

The eighth floor is composed of the first balcony and its lobby, a lighting control room, and a roof deck over the machine room. The ninth floor has the second balcony and its lobby. Passenger elevator lobbies, restrooms, storage areas and the main stairs are all present in the three floors, which has a total area of 2,894.64 sqm.

In terms of its structure, acoustics design, and technology, the auditorium can be compared to the top cultural centers of the country. It has specially designed walls that reverberate sounds for the audience and actors to clearly hear music, dialogues, and sound effects.

The auditorium has an orchestra pit for musicians with a slightly elevated platform for the conductor, and a dressing room that lies conveniently below the stage for the performers to enter and exit.

The auditorium employs the latest technology in its lighting system and other stage equipment.

**VICTORIA COURT DONATES LINENS, PILLOW CASES**

Willy M. Go, president of the south district of Victoria Court, and engineer Dan T. Balderamos, resident manager of Victoria Court Malate, turn over 1000 pieces of linen and 1000 pillow cases to Manila Councilor Kim Atienza as support to the local government's 'Ang Maynila Mahal Kita' program for the poor. Witnessing the turnover are (from left) JR Dumlao, union president of Victoria Court Malate, Macky E. Pentinio, marketing adviser, Victoria Court Malate, Henry Dalwampu and Cris M. Delima, marketing staff of Victoria Court Malate.

**VILLAR, ORDONEZ AT NFHFI AFFAIR**

Sen. Manuel Villar (6th from left) and Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto M. Ordonez (8th from left) graced the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc (NFHFI) during its 11th National Convention and Exhibit held recently at the SM Megatrade Hall. Shown welcoming the guests are (from left) Edwin Chen, president, Alliance Swine Producers Association, Vincent Tiu, NFHFI assistant treasurer, Victorio S. Lo, chair, Iloilo Hog Farmers MPC, Charles Alexander, counselor, US Department of Agriculture, Albert RT Lim Jr., NFHFI senior vice chair, Dr. Joel Ramos, president, Bulacan Livestock Integrated Group, Nemesio G. Co, NFHFI national chair, lawyer Laureano L. Abesamis, NFHFI corporate secretary and general legal counsel, Antonio C. Tomlin, president, Fil-Cantonese Hog Raisers Association, Dr. Rodolfo C. Custodio, chair, Pangasinan Agri-Ventures Primary MPC, Eliseo S. Yu, NFHFI exhibits chair, Perfecto G. Corpus, US Department of Agriculture, and Remegio Alejandro, Rizal Hog Farmers Association.

GLOBAL TRAINING

**CPSP, GTSI SIGN CONFAB MOA**

The Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP), in partnership with Global Training Solutions (GTSI), sign the memorandum of agreement on CPSP's first-ever conference and expo to be held on Sept. 19 and 20 at the New World Hotel. With the theme 'Corplan 2002: A New Mindset', the conference features top CEOs and resource speakers from the business, government and academe. For registration and other inquiries, call Maan Factura of Global Training Solutions at 755-8828, 755-8805. At the MOA signing are (seated, from left) Mon Santos, CPSP vice president, Jun Bernardo Jr., CPSP president, Sonny Torres, GTSI managing director, and Imee Alcantara, CPSP secretary. Standing, at left, is Larry Valera, CPSP treasurer, with Ariel Pagdanganan, GTSI consultant.

**FUJITSU SCHOLARS LEAVE FOR HAWAII**

Fujitsu Philippines Inc (FPI) executives recently met with the newly chosen Fujitsu Asia-Pacific scholars for the Intercultural Management Program (ICMP), a four-month postgraduate certificate program on American-based business management. Shown, from left, are Felipe R. Manalang, FPI president, Kristie Aninang, FPI coordinator for scholarships, Robinson Siao of KGI Securities (Phils.) Inc., the ICMP scholar leaving for Hawaii in April 2003, Shigeo Tsubotani, FPI chair, and Frederick Blancas of Integrated Microelectronics Inc., the ICMP scholar leaving for Hawaii this September. The scholars will be attending the program offered by the Japan-America Institute of Management Science (Jaims) in Honolulu, Hawaii, in cooperation with the College of Business Administration at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. Applications for the FAPSP MBA AND ICMP 2003-2004 are available this mid-August at the Fujitsu Philippines main office at the second floor of the United Life Building, 837 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City, or download the applications forms at www.fapsp.com or www.jaims.com.

### 'Mother Nature' fair in Alabang

THE FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa, hosts the "Mother Nature Fair" Aug. 15 to 28 at the Carousel of the second floor. The event features products in landscape and gardening, flowers and florists, health foods, herbal products, scents and aromatherapy, ceramics, juices and puree, wines, and with a special feature on food from the sea and mountains from different regions of the country. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and is open to the public. Admission is free. The event is organized by Philtrade Exhibits. For details, call Debbie or Rowell at 820-7879 or 820-1570.

## BPI cards add new Ayala Discount Plus feature

HERE's good news to all Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Express Cash, Express Credit and Express Teller cardholders looking for extra mileage. With the BPI-Ayala Malls Discount Plus Program, BPI cardholders will now automatically enjoy discounts/rebate privileges and earn rewards points for purchases done in participating merchants in the Ayala Malls: Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu.

The discount/rebate privilege is an added benefit for BPI Express Cash, Express Credit and Express Teller cardholders. The discounts are given by participating Ayala Discount Plus (ADP) merchants upon mere usage of Express Cash, Express Credit and/or Express Teller.

On top of this, the rewards program is a loyalty program whereby any purchase done via Express cash or Express Credit in participating Ayala Mall merchants earns corresponding rewards points. The more purchases made, the more rewards points earned, the bigger prizes to be claimed.

Here's how: when a BPI cardholder makes a purchase at a participating ADP merchant, the store personnel will do an ADP rewards points inquiry via BPI's point-of-sale (POS) terminal. Should the merchant not have a BPI POS terminal, the inquiry can be made at the ADP booths strategically located within the malls.

BPI cardholders who have accumulated enough points to redeem a gift certificate can go to any ADP booth for the prize redemption.

The BPI-Ayala Malls Discount Plus Program is open to all BPI cardholders without the need to register or the need to pay any fees to participate in this more-power-for-your-peso deal.

So get a BPI Express Cash, Express Credit and/or Express Teller card, shop in your favorite Ayala Mall and enjoy more value for your hard-earned cash.

BITS Clips

### 'Pinoy Art, Alay sa Kababaihan'

GLOBAL PLANNERS Inc., successful organizers of exhibits/bazaars at the PSE Auditorium of the Tektite Towers, will have a special exhibit sale of artworks by Angono artists, among them Jose Blanco and his family, Nemiranda and family, Lito Balagtas and son Bernie, and Totong Francisco and his group on Aug. 15 and 16 at the stage area of the PSE Auditorium. A regular bazaar will also be ongoing during the exhibit. Part of the proceeds of the sale will be donated to the Lakas Kababaihan ng Marikina. Guests of honor during the cocktail preview will be Mayor Marides Fernando of Marikina, Rep. Jack Duavit of the 1st District of Rizal, and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste. The event is sponsored by Via Mare Restaurant and Ralph's Wines and in cooperation with Citibank, Clorets by Pfizer, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Home Radio. For more information call Nora at 638-4585 and 637-5966.

### PGH launches new projects

THE PHILIPPINE General Hospital is currently presenting its new projects and services, including the inauguration of its newly renovated blood bank unit to highlight the week-long celebration of the 95th PGH foundation anniversary that started Aug. 12. The annual PGH service awards were conferred on the hospital's outstanding employees, retirees and donors at the Science Hall Aug. 14. This will be followed today by a variety show at the PGH quadrangle. Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, chair of PGH's department of emergency medical services and chair of the 95th foundation anniversary committee, makes the formal presentation of the new PGH projects at the Science Hall on Friday, Aug. 16 after the 6:30 a.m. Mass. There will be ballroom dancing in the evening at the PGH Nurses Home.

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**ESCAC, KCPI SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetics Center (Escac) and Kleenex Facial Tissues, together with Purity Absorbent Cotton, both from Kimberly Clark Philippines Inc. (KCPI), recently signed a partnership that strengthens the trust that Ellen's has put into both products for the last 23 years. Continuous use of both products in its facial, skin care, treatment, and other services aptly work for the sensitivity of the skin, despite exposure to damaging factors such as stress, pollution and unhealthy habits. The partnership reaffirms both firms' commitment of delivering quality service and products to their clients. Shown signing the partnership are (seated, from left) Gina Vizconde, senior product manager for business development group, KCPI, Ellen Lising, TV segment host and president, Escac, and Alma Florendo, product manager for Kleenex. Escac (413-6357/438-8072) specializes in skin and facial care services, permanent cosmetics and enhancement of features without painful and costly surgery.

Product FILES

### Montgomery Place rewards early birds

TAKE a good look and have a good listen to what's waiting for early birds and prompt payers of Ayala Land Inc.'s Montgomery Place on E. Rodriguez in Quezon City. Buyers of units from up to Aug. 31 who have completed their downpayments and credit investigation requirements within 30 days after reservation will receive a free Pioneer NS3VCD player.

The stylishly designed, space-saving VCD-cum-CD player comes packed with features for the discriminating audiophile. Its two 7-cm satellite speakers and 16-cm subwoofer pump out a hefty 1375 PMPO, courtesy of an independent power amplifier. 24 station presets can be programmed on its digital FM/AM tuner.

But the coolest feature on this nifty gadget is its motion-detecting, power-sliding doors. The translucent doors open when you wave a hand over its sensor.

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### HOUSE

#### PARANAQUE

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#### QUEZON CITY

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### BUSINESS RENTAL

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MERCHADISER 527-6418

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Parsh

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**DBP** Development Bank of the Philippines

# INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 29 August 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

| CODE | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION | MINIMUM BID |
|---|---|---|---|
| REAL ESTATE | | | |
| METRO MANILA | | | |
| LRD-153 | No. 95 Xavier St. cor. Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila | 170 sq.m. condominum unit (with 3BR and 3TB) (CCT No. 10964-R) at Suite 12-B, Penthouse (12th Floor), Avalon Condominium | P 7,435,200.00 |
| LDA-137-a | No. 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City | 253.70 sq.m. two (2) adjoining parcels of residential lot (TCT Nos. 143256 and 143257) with building and improvement | P 2,492,600.00 |
| MGT-131 | Interior Suter St., Sta. Ana, Manila (back of Sta. Ana Fire Station) | 124 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. 156194) | P 717,000.00 |
| MGT-119 | L4 Blk. 3 Violago Homes, Batasan Subd., Capitol District, Quezon City | 186 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. RT-123746) with buildings and improvements | P 657,000.00 |
| VAB-72 | L5 Blk. 5 Queensland Village II, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches, Quezon City | 42 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. N-211716) with buildings and improvements | P 314,200.00 |
| BATANGAS | | | |
| LJG-124 | Erected on lot (TCT T-46824) Soro-Soro, Carsada, Batangas City | One (1) storey factory/warehouse building (TFA of 35 sq.m.) (Sale as "dismantled" and on "as-is, where-is" basis) | P 68,500.00 |
| OZAMIZ | | | |
| VPI-85-b | Ledesma Ext., Bo. of Centro, Ozamiz City | 549 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-26089) with buildings and improvements | P 4,896,600.00 |
| ZAMBALES | | | |
| LDA-137-b | Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz, Zambales | 6,639 sq.m. agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-53665) | P 2,627,800.00 |
| CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis) | | | |
| VCP-53 | FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite | 7 units various machinery and equipment for fabrication of bolts and nuts | P 15,000.00 to P 428,800.00/ unit |
| VPI-85-c1-c4 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | 4 units various transportation equipment (2 cargo trucks, 1 payloader and 1 forklift) | P 72,900.00 to P 292,500.00/ unit |
| LJG-131-a & b | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | 1 unit Milling machine and 1 Lathe machine used in the fabrication of local spare parts of industrial machines | P 98,400.00 and P 92,400.00, respectively |
| VPI-85-c5 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | One lot shop and maintenance equipment (5 units) | P 69,500.00 |
| LJG-124-a-c | Soro-Soro, Carsada, Batangas City | 1 lot chattels (1 set Ball Mill; 1 set Milling equipment and 2 units transformer) | P 57,800.00 |
| VPI-85-c6-c8 | Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City | 5 units various equipment (1 truck scale, 1 generating set and 3 platform scales) | P 4,900.00 to P 56,300.00/unit |

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – August 14 & 15, 2002)

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Wilfredo E. Dumlao was extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public J. Reine Rhea L. Bunoan of Quezon City under Doc. No. 793, Page No. 159, Book No. X, Series of 2002. *(PDI-Aug. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)*

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Cert. MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIV. Nos. (7) 16524 (1) 17565 (4) 19245 (10) 21019 (36) 22402 (24) 24411 all in the name of Lydia S. Jacinto. If no contest is received new Cert. will be issued. (PDI- August 8, 15 & 22 2002)

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PNOC
# PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5279

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY of Various Sizes of Ball Valves (FGC 22618), and Two Units - 20 Mwe. Steam-Water Separator (FGC 22629). Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
    a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommend for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
    b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o Mr. Luis Alejandro L. Jason, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5279, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting August 13, 2002, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (PHP100.00) Philippine Currency, per document.
6. For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on August 22, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
7. The estimated date of award is on October 15, 2002.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 P.M. of September 16, 2002 (FGC 22618) and September 27, 2002 (FGC 22629). Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
10. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) Sergio Antonio F. Apostol
*Chairman President/C E O*

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

TOEFL/TSE REVIEW 527-1590

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PERSONAL

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

**Philippine Overseas Employment Administration**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue,
Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221142 to 99 Fax # 724-3724
Website Address:http://www.poea.org.ph

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 08

Series of 2002

**FOR** : **ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT** : **GUIDELINES ON THE RENEWAL OF EXISTING LANDBASED LICENSE UNDER THE 2002 POEA RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Pursuant to Section 1 (b), Rule I, Part II, Section 4, Rule II, Part II and Section 3, Part X of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers, the following guidelines shall govern the renewal of existing license to operate a land-based agency.

### I. MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

A minimum capitalization of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) in case of a single proprietorship or partnership and a minimum paid-up capital of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) in case of a corporation.

Agencies with existing license shall increase their Capitalization or paid-up capital, as the case may be, to Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) within four (4) years from effectivity of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations, at the rate of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) every year.

### II. ESCROW DEPOSIT

Agencies with existing license shall likewise increase their escrow deposit to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) within four (4) years from effectivity of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations, at the rate of P175,000.00 every year.

The Administration shall cause the transfer of the P100,000.00 cash bond to the agency's escrow account.

To facilitate monitoring of compliance mandated under Section 17, Rule II, Part II of the new rules, all concerned agencies shall submit proof of compliance with the first yearly increase of capital and escrow deposit on or before May 2003 and proof of compliance of subsequent increase on or before the end of May of each succeeding year until fully complied with.

### III. REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL

An agency shall be issued a Certificate of Renewal of License valid for four (4) years upon submission of the following documents on or before its expiration:

1. Duly accomplished POEA-LRO renewal application form.
2. Surety bond for P100,000.00 duly renewed or revalidated for four years together with official receipt.
3. Renewal of existing escrow deposit agreement reflecting the increased amount of P175,000.00 for the first year and the accumulated yearly increase thereafter until the amount of P1,000,000.00 is fully covered by May 2006 with a commercial bank together with bank certification of escrow deposit.

   All agencies renewing their license with expiration dates prior to May 2003 are not yet required to submit an Escrow Agreement, which already includes the required yearly increase of P175,000.00. All agencies renewing their license with expiration dates after May 2003 shall be required to submit an Escrow Agreement already reflecting the required yearly increase in escrow deposit.
4. Certification from the POEA Accounting Division that cash bond is still intact.
5. Audited financial statements for the past two years with verified corporate tax returns or individual income tax returns of the single proprietor or partners.

   In case the equity of the agency is below the minimum capitalization requirement, it shall be given thirty (30) days from release of the renewed license to submit proof(s) of capital infusion such as SEC certification of such infusion or bank certification corresponding to the amount infused and treasurer's affidavit duly received by the SEC in the case of a corporation or partnership or DTI certification on increase in owner's capital with bank certification relative thereto in case of single proprietorship, otherwise the license shall be suspended until it has complied with the said requirement.
6. Valid NBI clearance of all the Directors, officers and employees involved in recruitment and placement. In case of directors or partners with foreign nationality, the clearance from their country of origin may be submitted in place of the NBI clearance.

   Clearance from the POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch for all the Directors, officers and employees involved in recruitment and placement.
7. Duly notarized undertaking stating that the applicant for renewal:
   a. shall select only medically and technically qualified recruits;
   b. shall assume full and complete responsibility for all claims and liabilities which may arise in connection with the use of the license;
   c. shall assume joint and solidary liability with the employer for all claims and liabilities which may arise in connection with the implementation of the contract, including but not limited to payment of wages, death and disability compensation and repatriation;
   d. shall guarantee compliance with the existing labor and social legislations of the Philippines and of the country of employment of the recruited workers;
   e. shall assume full and complete responsibility for all acts of its officials, employees and representatives done in connection with recruitment and placement;
   f. shall negotiate for the best terms and conditions of employment;
   g. shall disclose the full terms and conditions of employment to the applicant workers ***pursuant to the Full Disclosure Policy***;
   h. shall provide orientation on recruitment procedures, terms and conditions and other relevant information to its workers and provide facilities therefore; and
   i. shall repatriate the deployed workers and his personal belongings when the need arises.

   The foregoing affidavit of undertaking shall be required only for the first renewal after 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations became effective to replace existing verified undertaking in view of additional new provisions/undertakings.
8. Bank certificate of cash deposit of at least P500,000.00 with an authority to examine such deposit.
9. In the case of a partnership or corporation, notarized undertaking of the partners, directors and officers, that they will be jointly and severally liable with the partnership or corporation, as the case may be, over claims arising out of employer-employee relationship.

   The notarized undertaking shall be required every time there is a change of partners, officers and directors.
10. Notarized undertaking to increase office space to at least 100 sq. meters within the four year validity period of the license.
11. Other requirements as may be imposed by the Administration.

### IV. ACTION UPON THE APPLICATION

1. Applications for renewal of license filed on or before its expiration shall be pre-evaluated to determine completion of requirements. Within 24 hours from receipt of the application, the agency shall be informed of deficiencies and lacking requirements noted. Only applications with complete requirements shall be processed and acted upon.
2. Within forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of the complete application, the Administration shall determine whether to deny or grant the application.
3. An application for renewal of license of an agency that failed to fully comply with renewal requirements within thirty (30) days from its expiration, may still be allowed subject to payment of penalty fine and full compliance with requirements within thirty (30) days from notice, otherwise, it shall be recommended for denial and delisting without prejudice to an application for a new license.

### V. LATE FILING OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL

An agency, which failed to file an application for renewal before the expiration of its license, may still be allowed to renew within thirty (30) days from expiry thereof subject to the payment of a fine of P10,000.00 and full compliance with requirements within the same extended period in accordance with IV-3 above.

Agencies that failed to file an application for renewal of license within thirty (30) days from its expiration shall be deemed delisted from the roster of licensed agencies, without prejudice to an application for a new license.

### VI. TRANSITORY APPLICATIONS OF THE NEW RULES

All applications for renewal of license which expired on or before **May 23, 2002** and which were filed with complete requirements under the old rules on or before said date shall be processed under the old rules.

All applications for renewal of licenses with expiration dates after **May 23, 2002**, shall be processed under the new rules subject to the submission of affidavit of undertakings to comply with capitalization/paid-up capital and escrow deposit or proof of compliance not later than May 2003.

### VII. PENALTY PROVISIONS

In case of failure of the agency to submit proof of compliance with the yearly required increase in capitalization/paid-up capital, escrow deposit, space requirement and capital infusion shall be a ground for documentary suspension of license until compliance or denial of the application for renewal.

All issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed modified or repealed accordingly.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
*Administrator*

(PDI - Aug. 15, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
**SENATE**
Pasay City

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following services for Year 2003;

### A. PUBLIC BIDDING

1. Canteen Concessioning/Catering
2. H M O
3. Housekeeping
4. Preventive Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals
5. Rental of Copier Machines
6. Rental of Shuttle Bus
7. Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines
8. Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews
9. Supply of Gasoline
10. Printing & binding of "RECORD OF THE SENATE" (6 volumes)

### B. SEALED BIDDING

1. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program
2. Garbage Disposal
3. Rental of Drinking Fountains
4. Sanitizers and Deodorizers
5. Subscription to Cable Television
6. Supply of Flowers

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **August 19-21, 2002**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **August 28, 2002**. Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the prequalification proceedings. ONLY PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS SHALL BE ISSUED THE APPROVED SCOPE OF WORKS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR BIDDING.

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. Late bids will be rejected.

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category if any, will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

The winning bidder(s) for each category shall post a Performance Bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts, the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
*Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee*

(PDI--Aug. 14, 15 & 16, 2002)

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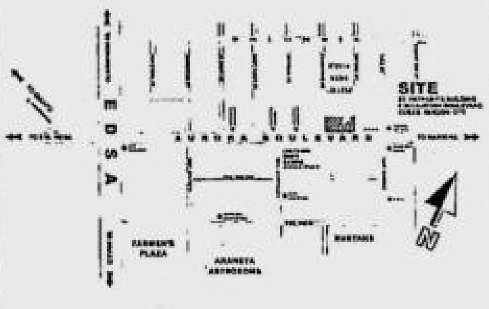

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**892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370**

KALAW:
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**635-0219; 635-0220**

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**PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER**
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

## Academic Year 2003

**FELLOWSHIP**
**(with specific requirements)**

**I. Adult Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

**II. Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

**III. Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery**
- 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible / Diplomate)
- at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

**IV. Pulmonary Medicine**
- PCP Diplomate

**V. Anesthesiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- 3 month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

**VI. 1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine
**1 Year Fellowship Program for** Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Biological and Clinical Laboratory

**RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)**
I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

**General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:**
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

**JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.**
**Assistant Director**
**Office of Education and Research**
**Philippine Heart Center**
**East Avenue, Quezon City**

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2002*
** Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

*For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Te. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph*

(PDI--Aug. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON**
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

*Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim*
*Office of the Undersecretary*

Telefax: 631-84-92
Direct Line: 633-72-03
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2105 2006

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Department of Education (DepEd) is in need of a lot to be used as a school site for the relocation of the Balagtas Elementary School in Batangas City. The approved budget for the project is P 13,000,000.00.

The proposed site should meet the following criteria:

1. Area should not be less than 5,000 square meters.
2. With clean Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) and free from liens and encumbrances.
3. Must be located within a radius of not less than 150 meters from cockpits, malls, gambling dens, cinema houses, beer and videoke joints, jails, industrial establishments, military quarters, public markets, slaughterhouses and garbage dumps.
4. Must be easily accessible to the greatest number of pupils within Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City.
5. The contour of the land should be level and have no irregular boundaries, and will not require voluminous filling.
6. The subsoil should provide a proper base for economical and substantial foundation of the buildings to be constructed.
7. Must have a suitable frontage on a public road or should be nearby and have direct open vehicular access to the public road
8. With regular supply of water and electricity.
9. No history of flooding.

All interested bidders must avail of the bidding documents starting **August 12 to 27, 2002** at BAC Secretariat, Rm. 112, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepEd Complex, Pasig City.

All proposals must be submitted on **September 10, 2002**, 10:00 AM at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 27, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the proposals.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
*Undersecretary*
*Chairman, DepEd BAC*

(PDI--Aug. 8, 10 & 15, 2002)

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## PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

### NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE RURAL BANK OF ALBAY, INC. (CRBAI)

1. Starting August 16, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Cooperative Rural Bank of Albay, Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the closed bank from August 16 to August 29, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After August 29, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

   **The Manager**
   **Claims Processing Department**
   **Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation**
   **2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City**
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Rural Bank of Albay, Inc. is on **January 3, 2004**. After **January 3, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

**PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

(PDI--Aug 15 & 16, 2002)

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*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior!".*
Assumption of Mary
Lk 1:46-47

*In loving memory of*

## FR. CORNELIO LAGERWEY, MSC.

*on his*
7th Anniversary to Eternal Life (AUGUST 15, 1995)

**Holy Masses will be offered on Thursday, 15 August 2002 in various churches. Please join us in prayer in fulfillment of his vision especially the *evangelization of love* thru media.**

***Fr. Cor, thank you for being part of us, for the vision, courage, dedication and inspiration to serve God through media. Our love and commitment lives on . . .***

Mngt. & Staff of FCL•ASIA, INC.

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## DELTA MENDOZA SALVADOR

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 12, 2002
at the age of 84.

Her late husband **Delfin**; children **Fe & Stalin, Tony & Baby**, and **Cora**; grandchildren **Kat, Tet, Toby & Tanya**; brothers **Teofilo** (†), **Amorsolo** (†), **Eugenio**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Guzman Memorial Chapel, J. Rizal St., Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.

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## RUDOLFO LARRACAS DE LA ROSA

*Returned to his Creator on August 13, 2002.*

His bereaved wife **Marisa**; children & in-laws **Ruvic** & **Monette**, **Ludette** & **Ogie**, **Pol**, **Marga** & **Nelo**, **Luigi**, **Beng** & **Jeck**; grandchildren **Angelo**, **Nicole** & **Monica**, **Justin**, **Neal** & **Camille**; siblings & in-laws **Linda** & **Tanny**, **Ching** & **Tony**, **Boy** & **Sonia**; other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Mortuary Chapel, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on August 16, 2002 at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass to be held at the Sto. Domingo Mortuary.

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## FEDERICO "HARRY" L. AGTARAP, JR.

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on August 14, 2002 at the age of 51.*

His loving wife **Marilyn Mercado**; children **Mark, Lourdes & April**; mother **Natividad**; brothers and sisters **Marvin, Ollie, Tom, Ernie & Virgie**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-C, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 18, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Nacional Memorial Homes.

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In Endless Loving Memory
of the 12th Death Anniversary of the late

## BENJAMIN HIDALGO – FELIPE M.D.

August. 16, 1990

Masses will be offered tomorrow, August 16, 2002 at the following churches:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH ........ 6:00 PM
Lantana, Cubao
MT. CARMEL SHRINE ........ 6:00 PM
J. Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH ........ 6:00 PM
Kamuning, Quezon City
CHRIST THE KING SEMINARY PARISH ........ 6:00 PM
E. Rodriguez, Quezon City
ST. MARTIN CHAPEL ........ 6:00 PM
C. Benitez, Cubao, Quezon City
MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH ........ 7:00 PM
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas

Request the pious readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory
with all our love

wife CHARITO, children; BEN JR, MARINEL & TIMMY and MANNY

---

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"VERITAS LIBERABIT NOS"

**His Excellency**

## MOST REV. CELSO N. GUEVARRA D.D., S.T.D.

**Bishop Emeritus**
**Diocese of Balanga, Bataan**

**Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on August 13, 2002**

His remains now lie in state at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, City of Balanga, Bataan. On August 16 (Friday) 9:00 a.m., his remains will be brought to the Metropolitan Cathedral of the City of San Fernando where Holy Mass will be celebrated in his honor. Thereafter, his remains will lie in state at the Parish of San Nicolas De Tolentino, Capas, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at the Family Mausoleum at the Parish of San Nicolas De Tolentino Capas, Tarlac after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

---

His Excellency
**Most Rev. HONESTO F. ONGTIOCO, DD.,**
The Clergy and the Faithful of the Diocese of Balanga
sadly announce the passing away of

## MOST REV. CELSO N. GUEVARRA, DD., STD.

**Bishop Emeritus of Balanga**

on August 13, 2002 after receiving the Last Rites at St. Luke's Hospital.

Wake is at St. Joseph Cathedral, Balanga City from August 14-16, 2002. His remains will be transferred to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Capas, Tarlac, after the 10:30 A.M. Mass on August 16, 2002 at the Metropolitan Cathedral, San Fernando City.

Interment will be on August 20, 2002 after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

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**"From darkness let the light shine!"**
Genesis 1:3

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Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
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# Gov't lowers 2003 inflation target

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE COUNTRY'S economic team has revised its inflation target for 2003 to as low as 4 percent despite signs that a prolonged drought associated with the El Niño weather phenomenon could weaken farm output and raise food prices.

Persons familiar with the matter said the government's economic managers were confident that the declining inflation trend this year would spill over to next year.

Inflation refers to the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising, and subsequently, purchasing power is falling.

As inflation rises, every peso will buy a smaller percentage of a good. For example, if the inflation rate is 2 percent, then a P1 pack of gum will cost P1.02 in a year.

The inflation target was adjusted lower from an original forecast of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

But while the inflation target was brought down, domestic interest rates are seen doubling to 8 percent from an average yield of 4.878 percent for the benchmark 91-day treasury bills.

A government source said the interest rate target for 2003 was no different from this year's expected average of 7 to 8 percent and was lower compared with the original forecast of 9.5 to 10.5 percent.

The foreign exchange forecast for next year of P51 to P52 to a dollar, meanwhile, was revised to P51.50. Yesterday, the peso hit a low of P52 but managed to close at P51.79.

The country's economic team earlier revised its growth forecast for next year to 5 to 5.5 percent in terms of gross domestic product and 5.1 to 5.7 percent in terms of gross national product.

The original targets were a 5.4- to 5.9-percent growth in GDP and a 5.5- to 6-percent GNP growth.

GDP is the monetary value of all the goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period. It includes consumption, government purchases, investments and exports minus imports. This is perhaps the greatest indicator of the economic health of a country.

## San Miguel food unit records 14% drop in net income

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

SAN MIGUEL Pure Food Corp.'s net income in the first half of the year fell 14.4 percent to P290.18 million from last year's P339.03 million.

In a statement released yesterday, SMPFC said that, as expected, its operating income fell short of last year's performance by 4 percent, as poultry prices remained soft.

"The decline in poultry prices remained the biggest contributing factor to the drop in operating profits this year compared to last year," it said.

The company added that raw material costs and operating expenses increased at a faster and higher rate than prices, leading to lower margins and operating profits.

Its consolidated net revenue in the first half, however, was robust, almost doubling to P14.6 billion from P7.225 billion.

The feeds, flour and poultry businesses of San Miguel Foods Inc. were integrated into SMPFC last year, making it a 63.89-percent-owned subsidiary of SMPFC.

Another food firm, Vitarich Corp., a poultry and feeds producer, reported, meanwhile, that its net loss grew to P339.88 million in the first six months of the year from P94.743 million during the same period last year.

Revenues also fell to P2.811 billion from P3.067 billion, while expenses remained almost flat at P2.987 billion.

As a result, Vitarich suffered a loss from operations of P175.95 million against a positive income from operations of P89.686 million.

Vitarich said its strategic partnership with leading UK feed milling company BOCM Pauls continued its positive impact on the company's feed production efficiencies. *Elena R. Torrijos*

## Piltel income up 23% on strong 'Talk 'N Text' returns

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. said yesterday that its revenues grew 22.7 percent to P1.8 billion in the first half of the year.

Piltel, one of two mobile telecom units of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said revenues from its "Talk 'N Text" service accounted for 71.5 percent of its total revenues, with sales surging 38.8 percent to P1.3 billion.

"Talk 'N Text," which rides on the network of sister company Smart Communications Inc., is the country's third largest GSM operator, with a subscriber base of 1.6 million as of end-June, more than double last year's level of 784,672.

The jump in revenues and increasing take-up of the Talk 'N Text brand, however, were not enough to cover restructuring costs of P707 million, interest expenses and depreciation.

Despite the positive numbers, however, Piltel is still operating at a net loss position because of asset impairment charges of more than P13.9 billion, restructuring costs of P707 million and interest expenses.

These charges, however, have gone down considerably because of the successful implementation of its debt restructuring in June last year.

The company's net loss in the first six months of the year stood at P1.9 billion, significantly lower than last year's P18.2 billion.

*Abigail L. Ho*

## Thrift, commercial banks with fewer bad loans in May

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

BANKS ended up with fewer bad loans in their portfolios in May.

Central bank documents showed that the ratio of non-performing loans of thrift banks slid to 14.33 percent in May from 14.41 percent in April.

A thrift bank's main purpose is to take deposits from consumers and make home mortgages. They typically don't bother themselves with corporate banking, brokering or underwriting.

Commercial banks, meanwhile, also had fewer headaches from bad loans, with their NPL ratio falling to 18.06 percent in June from 18.43 percent in May.

Non-performing loans are those in default or close to being in default. Many loans become non-performing after being in default for three months, but this can depend on the contract terms.

According to data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the country's more than 100 thrift banks had problematic accounts worth about P20.83 billion in May, higher by 0.14 percent the previous month, but they also extended more loans at P145.34 billion.

The sale of P16.3 billion worth of soured accounts held by Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. to US investment firm Lehman Brothers helped trim the value of the commercial banking sector's bad loans to P289 billion in June from P305.5 billion in May.

The sector's total loan portfolio fell by about P60 billion to some P1.6 trillion.

The central bank admitted that compared to a year ago, the bad loans ratio was much lower at 16.96 percent for big banks and 11.94 percent for thrift banks than this year's levels.

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Per DTI Permit No.1459, Series of 2002

MOTORING
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

# Truck makers slam influx of secondhand vehicles

**By Charles E. Buban**

WE need your help. Whether this call is addressed to the government, legislators or the members of the media who attended their first media day last week, the country's biggest commercial vehicle assemblers and distributors pleaded anew to put a stop to the continued importation of secondhand vehicles, that has badly hurt their sales performance in recent years.

The Truck Manufacturers Association warned that if the situation goes unabated, vehicle assemblers and distributors would be forced to close down their factories here and just bring their assembled units from other plants in the region. "We could be seeing the demise of this industry in 10 years. Should we wait for that day when it's already too late for the government to do anything?" laments Frank Nacua, TMA chair.

"In fact our demise could happen much earlier especially that tariffs for completely built-up vehicles would ease up in the coming years and local assemblers would lose their competitive edge," adds Nacua referring to the tariff reduction commitments by the Philippine government under the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta).

Duties on completely built-up units from the region would be reduced from 30 percent to 5 percent by next

TRUCK/ p. C4

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## Motorshow to link up with parts suppliers

**By Jun Alano**

IN A GESTURE of support to the local auto industry, Motorshow International (Philippines) said it will provide a forum for players in the auto supporting industries during the 13th Motorshow season this October to further discuss ways of strengthening the competitiveness of parts suppppliers.

Marisa Nallana, Motorshow's director general, said that by providing a forum to auto parts suppliers, they hope to contribute to the expansion of the auto supporting industries, which supply parts mainly to Japanese assemblers, and thus help sustain economic growth and productivity.

Motorshow was the only Philippine auto exhibition invited to the the 4th Conference on Asean Auto Supporting Industries Seminar held last July 9 at the World Trade Center and the Philippine Trade Training Center, an event that was organized by the Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (Japia) and the Japan Export Trading Organization or Jetro.

### Discussions

During the one-day seminar, among the topics discussed were ways to promoting local sourcing in the Asean region, which currently lags behind in terms of local procurement ratio of Japanese automotive parts by Japanese companies in overseas operations.

Also discussed and analyzed during the seminar were the characteristics of parts that are easily localized, as well as parts that are slow to localize but which can be improved through several ways, including closer cooperation with Japanese automakers.

### Insufficient

Nallana said Motorshow's organizers felt that the one-day seminar was insufficient to discuss the other concerns of local parts manufacturers that want to penetrate the lucrative Japanese auto market, thus their decision to provide a venue for further discussions during the Motorshow from Oct. 2 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Motorshow's home for the past five editions.

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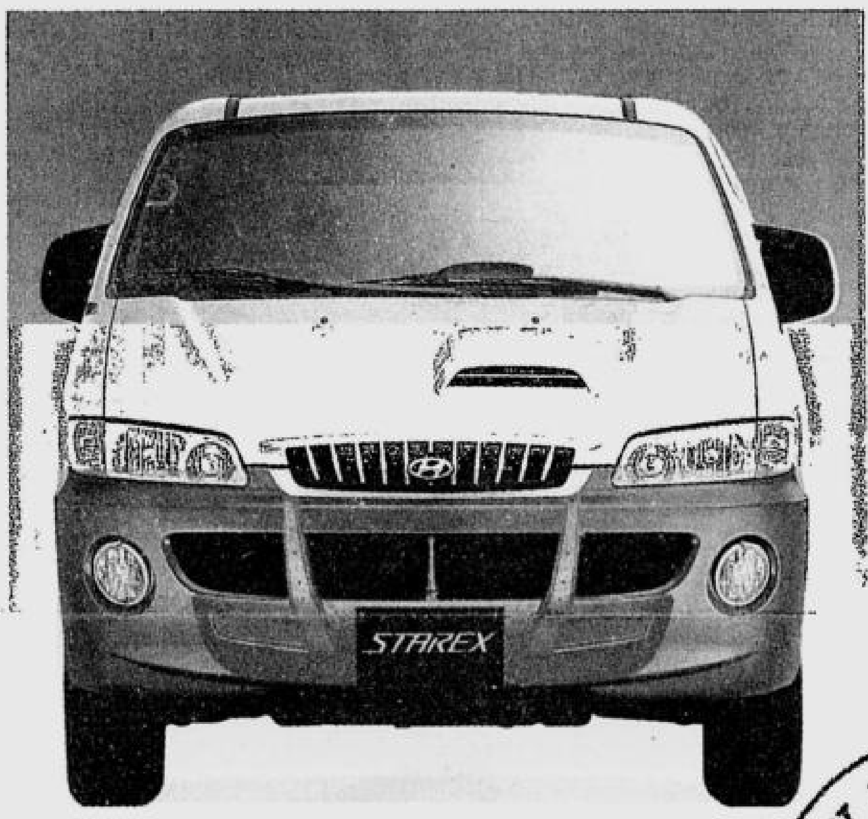

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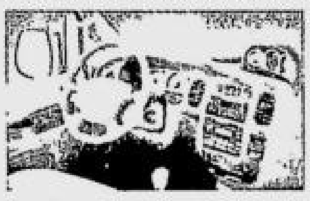
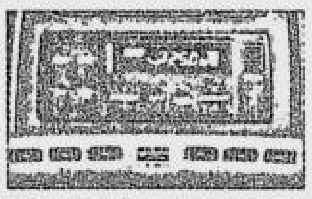

Woodgrain dashboard adds luxury to the spacious cabin (Multimeter for CLUB model only)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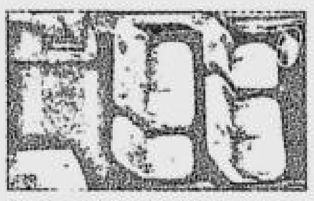
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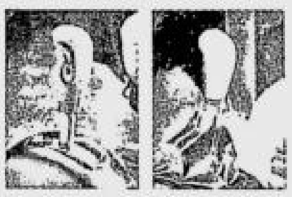
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**ON THE ROAD**

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

FROM A CONSUMER'S point of view, the best argument for buying a brand-new vehicle instead of an imported secondhand one auctioned at Subic Freeport is the new car warranty that comes with it, backed up by the manufacturer. In case of a malfunction or factory defect occurring within a specified period of time commencing from date of delivery, the buyer of a new vehicle can bring it back to the dealer for no-cost repair or parts replacement. And raise hell if the dealer does not honor the warranty.

On the other hand, anyone who buys a secondhand vehicle at an auction in Subic, whether it be an imported, converted right-hand-drive (RHD), imported left-hand-drive (LHD) or a locally sourced LHD, has no warranty to fall back on if something goes wrong with the car. Who can the buyer of a converted RHD used car run after if he has an accident on the road because the welding of repositioned parts such as the steering system or brakes failed, the epoxy melted, or the electricals short-circuited and burned? Certainly not the Land Transportation Office's Motor Vehicle Inspection Section, which only cursorily checks the roadworthiness and compliance with safety and emission standards of converted vehicles at Subic.

### Longer down-time

Aside from endangering the driver, the passengers, pedestrians and other cars on the road, converted RHD used vehicles disadvantage their buyers because they cannot be serviced or repaired competently as they are not backed up by qualified organizations with original parts and services.

When these imported second-hand vehicles break down, as they often do, their owners find it difficult if not impossible to find the necessary spare parts. Result: longer down-time than on-the-road time, sometimes stretching into weeks and months. The initial advantage gained by the owner from having paid less for a secondhand auctioned vehicle is thereby lost.

But above all, investing in the purchase of a new vehicle and maintaining it according to the manufacturer's recommended schedule of periodic checkups, can be rewarding in terms of many years of reliable, satisfactory performance and service rendered by the vehicle. Some people are so pleased with a vehicle they bought many years ago that they rave about it, even write a tribute to it.

Here, for example, is a tribute to a truck sent by Silverio F. Aquino, a retired corporate lawyer: "I did not like the Nissan Power Pickup when it was first offered to the public (in 1991). However, my son SJ was so convinced of its style, safety features and practical uses that he took a leaf from my checkbook and used it to pay the deposit. When he asked me if I still refused to buy, I just laughed.

### Best acquisition

"I admit the decision to buy the pickup was the best SJ (and I) made in the acquisition of our family vehicles. I found the 1991 Nissan Power Pickup very convenient and economical to use rather than our gas-driven vehicles, especially in long trips to La Union and the Ilocos region. We have laden it practically with everything we needed for our food business then, from sacks of rice and popcorn to 300 coconuts and hams from the province.

"We have driven it on rough roads and through floods. We have replaced the water pump, under chassis parts and calibrated it once. But I write you this letter to tell you about what our experienced mechanic cannot believe: we have not overhauled the engine yet nor replaced the clutch lining or any other parts inside it.

"It is now 11 years old and has registered 264,530 kilometers of distance traveled. We have repainted it twice and we still use it every day. We are very satisfied with its performance and we owe this not only to the high quality of Nissan trucks but also to our strict periodic and preventive maintenance.

"I hope you can publish this in the motoring section of the INQUIRER so your readers will be informed that it pays to buy high quality and to maintain their vehicles in the long run."

Now, if that testimony still does not convince you to buy brand-new locally assembled instead of imported secondhand vehicles at Subic, I don't know what will.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Friends don't let friends drive Fords.

# Mitsubishi launches first fully synthetic engine oil

THE MITSUBISHI Turbo XP Fully Synthetic Engine Oil, the first fully synthetic engine oil, is now in the country. The Turbo XP is made of Group 3 base stock, which is known to have the highest mineral grade level among all engine oils in the country.

This has developed with MMPC's recent forging of partnership with Amalie Oil Co., USA and Pro Oil Corp. to blend, manufacture and distribute Mitsubishi-branded synthetic engine oil.

### Key performance requirements

The development of Turbo XP has been driven by key performance requirements such as improved fuel economy, stricter emission requirements and optimal engine protection. This results in a significant improvement in anti-oxidation, viscosity, stability, high temperature deposit control, lower oil volatility and oil consumption.

The Turbo XP is produced by Amalie Oil Co., one of the leading lubricant blenders and manufacturers in the United States. It produces and supplies approximately 340 million liters of lubricant every year to almost all parts of America, Europe, Africa and Asia. It is being distributed locally by Pro Oil Corp., Amalie's authorized local distributor of its lubricant products.

### A cut above the rest

Considered to be a cut above all the other existing engine oils in the country, the Mitsubishi Turbo XP Fully Synthetic Engine Oil was specially blended to meet the highest level of requirements of all Mitsubishi engines, most especially turbo-charged engines whose maximum performance can be fully achieved with the use of high-grade, high-quality engine oil.

The Turbo XP, however, is not limited for use in Mitsubishi vehicles only, as other car brands can also use them to realize their vehicle engine's full performance and to achieve a higher level of engine protection.

The Mitsubishi Turbo XP Fully Synthetic Engine Oil is available at all Mitsubishi dealerships, service plus centers and parts centers nationwide.

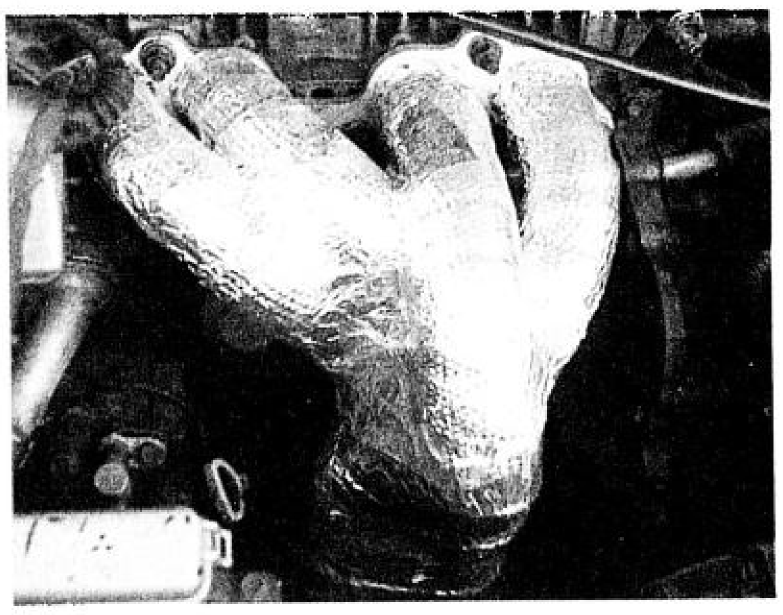
# New automotive product now available

MAXXUS Auto Gear (MAG) recently launched MAG Thermal Wraps, a high-quality automotive exhaust header wrap made of special flameproof composite insulator with a unique external aluminum skin. MAG Wraps' special composition yields a high insulating capacity that surpasses that of fiberglass wraps, and is safer.

When properly installed, MAG Wraps greatly reduces the heat radiating from the headers, making the engine bay much cooler. Thus resulting in cooler air-conditioning, longer life of your car's major parts (especially rubber, plastic and electronic or electrical components) and eliminating hood paint fading.

And because of the cooler engine air intake, and the increased temperature inside the headers (or exhaust manifold) that speeds up the ejection of exhaust gases, it also gives better overall engine performance.

MAG Wraps is the lowest priced wrap in the market. It is now available at Mufflerland and E-Racing shop.



MAG Thermal Wraps

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# Club Mitsu exemplifies auto camaraderie

By Tessa R. Salazar

AUTOMOTIVE brotherhood, together with sisterhood, goes beyond merely sharing interest in cars, or swapping stories of customized cars after another. For the members of one automotive organization, membership means looking out for each other as well.

Exchanging ideas on automotive stuff, solving engine troubles, figuring out electrical circuits, or canvassing tires and comparing body paint make for interesting and productive automotive discussions in the website. Try posing questions about your car at clubmitsuph.com's forum and get loads of replies from hundreds of Mitsubishi auto enthusiasts. Those who post these replies are reliable, and educated, auto buddies.

### Membership profile

Among Club Mitsu members are established automotive engineers. Some are self-made auto mechanics. One member is an engineer from Yokohama Tire Philippines. When it comes to tire upgrades, he's the guy to ask. Another member is a mechanical engineer who installs his own custom turbo on his Lancer, even if everybody else says it's not a wise move. This guy put his own pistons and upgraded them. Now, it works.

Club Mitsu members are a mixture of 18- to 30-year-olds from varied walks of life. Some of them have companies of their own while others are employed.

### Thoughtful members

A cash-strapped member, for instance, who would badly need a new pair of bucket seats for his old Lancer would find himself getting hand-me-down, good-quality seats almost for free. Members who have parts to spare sell their wares, *presyong kapatid* (price at a bargain), to those who need it. Therefore, almost no auto parts are wasted.

"We help each other not just in customizing cars. It goes beyond your one's own gimmick," says Club Mitsu president Rufi Parpan. He says that when one signs up for membership, the club asks if the member has any special knowledge about the car that he or she is willing to share with the club. This, for Parpan, makes the organization willing and able to help its members.

The majority of members, however, are college grads, employed, who have cars of their own and who have disposable income to spend for their cars. This is what Parpan has been stressing to the establishments Club Mitsu has been wooing to tie up with its club card. (Note: The club has a lone female member. Calling all female Mitsubishi enthusiasts.)

Some of the more thoughtful Club Mitsu members scouting for parts on Banawe who happen to see, say, a steering wheel needed by another one would go as far as buying it himself for him, to be paid later, of course.

Over a third of the 370 enthusiasts who regularly log in its website are full-fledged members—they have paid the annual membership fee of P500. These members are already entitled to the membership perks that Club Mitsu lavishes on its members.

Most of the cars the members own are 1993 to 1996 Lancer models, EL, Gli or GLXi. Well, these letters inevitably don't matter, as Parpan says members swap engines anyway. The "next generation" Lancers that most members own are 1997 onward. Membership, however, is not limited to Lancer owners. As long as you own a vehicle with the three-petal emblem of Mitsubishi, you can have a go for it.

**PARPAN, standing at far left, is the energetic Club Mitsu president, while VP Emerson Ting, who's standing second from right, is the Galant GTI guru and the one whom the club members run to for major heavy repairs. Notice that there's a lone female member.**

### Other officers, directors

Aside from its energetic president, Club Mitsu has vice president Emerson Ting as its Galant GTI guru and the one to run to for heavy repairs. He has a computer shop and car leasing business. Secretary Allan Lavarias, meanwhile, is a Yokohama Tire plant engineer who loves to do research. He knows the engine variety and technical specs inside and out.

Treasurer Tristan Magbanua works for San Miguel packaging. He became a car expert via hands-on experience. Director Mark Chan, or "Biggs," is the IT guy and one of the web masters. He has recently set up a new Yahoo group.

Director Randee Gimenez is the "junkyard guy" who always comes up with exotic, hard-to-find Mitsubishi parts. He's also the guy to ask about "upgrade questions."

Director Danby Yaptinchay has the cleanest, neatest Lancer ever. He owns box-type turbo and rally cars.

Parpan is also planning to put up a council for all car enthusiasts that would include Toyota, Honda, Nissan and other auto clubs in the country. He thinks auto clubs will improve and propel the automotive industry in general.

### Takeover

Club Mitsu is seeing a change in the dealership side and in sales, as a more progressive and a more dynamic set of people is starting to take over.

"We hope the automotive industry will notice and start listening to us because we are the consumers. You have diehard guys here who promote your brands and in return we just want you to notice us."

Parpan says he would like all the clubs to be integrated into the mainstream automotive industry as a focus group. Here is his message to auto manufacturers:

"If you come out with a new car model that sucks, we're going to tell the people that it sucks and we do that. The idea is before the manufacturer comes out with a new model, you can call on us to be your focus group, do product research and all, and we can tell you if it's good or it's bad since we also do research."

Parpan says that Club Mitsu is lucky that Mitsubishi Philippines is supporting the club by recognizing it and inviting it in car shows. But other clubs, he says, are not as lucky as they are still ignored.

Parpan, who set up his own successful machine shop but had to set it aside when his family asked him to take over the family's human resource company, plans to resurrect his machine shop with the help of some of the club's techno-savvy members. They would, of course, specialize in Mitsubishi parts and service.

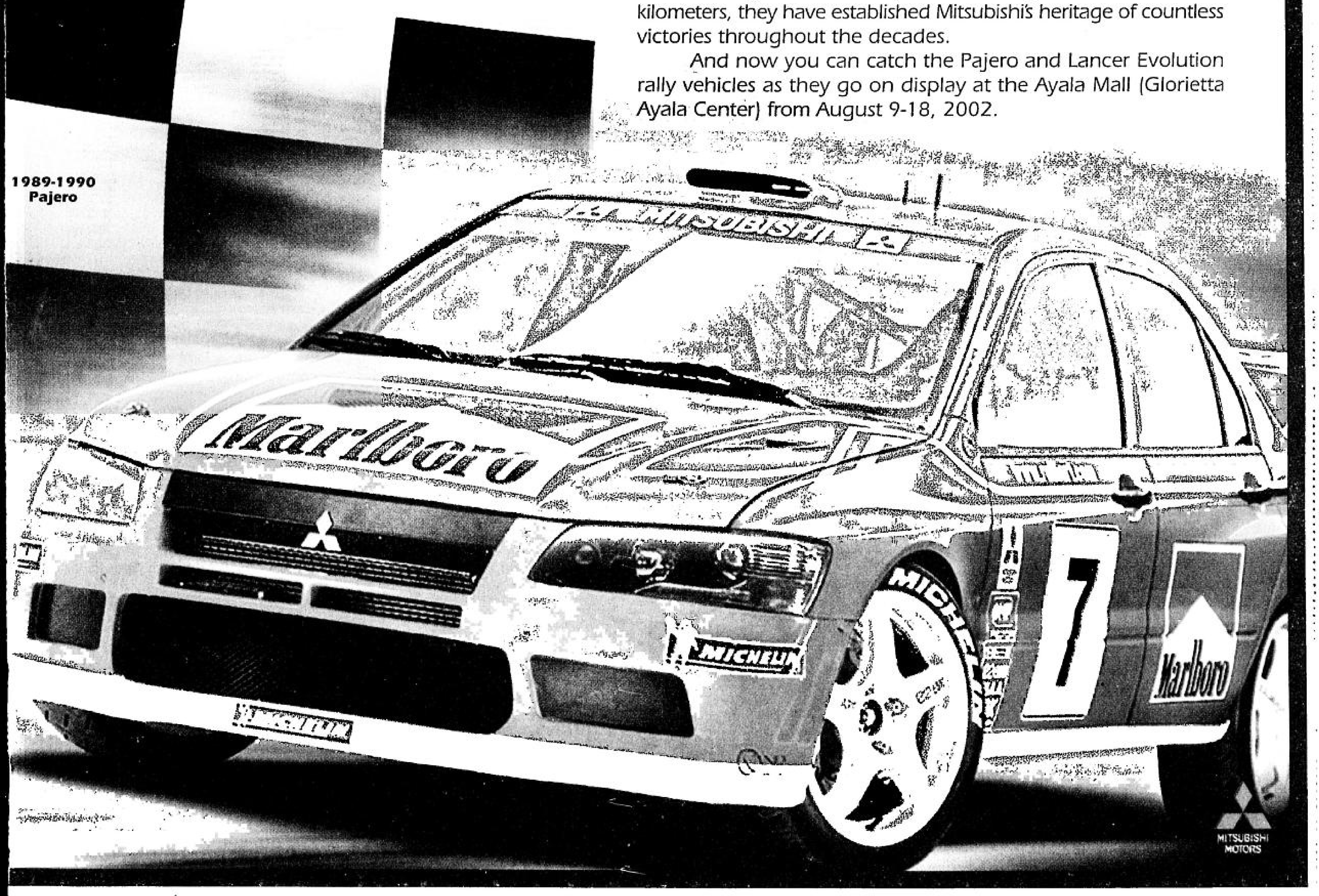
Parpan, even during his student days in Ateneo de Manila, was one of the more popular go-to guys in campus when it came to cars. His shop would be the unofficial *talyer ng bayan* when it came to restoring damages caused by fellow students—damages the students wouldn't want their dads to discover.

Now a family man, Parpan doesn't hide his ingenuity anymore. But he's still the go-to guy when it comes to the best buys in cars. You can't blame him. He's very good, and honest, at what he loves to do.

ubishi's Power
Cast On Display

Time and again the Mitsubishi Pajero and Lancer Evolution have proven that exacting build quality and engineering are what ultimately matter in the most gruelling automotive arena, cross-country rallies. After years of racing over thousands of kilometers, they have established Mitsubishi's heritage of countless victories throughout the decades.

And now you can catch the Pajero and Lancer Evolution rally vehicles as they go on display at the Ayala Mall (Glorietta Ayala Center) from August 9-18, 2002.



# MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

MERCEDES-BENZ E-Class

# New Mercedes-Benz E-Class introduced

THE PHILIPPINE launch of the 2002 Mercedes-Benz E-Class was held recently at the NBC Tent at The Fort in Taguig, Metro Manila. Four new E-Class saloons were put on display by exclusive distributor Commercial Motors Corp. for the viewing pleasure of the invited guests and the press people.

The new E-Class redefines the standards in the automotive luxury class and assumes an exemplary position in all major engineering disciplines. No other model reflects the basic values of Mercedes-Benz as clearly as the new E-Class: safety, comfort, innovative engineering and exciting design.

### Popular saloon

About 1.4 million units of the E-Class, considered the "heart" of the Mercedes-Benz brand, have been produced since 1995, making it one of the most successful models from Mercedes-Benz. No other saloon in the luxury car segment is as popular as the E-Class, which has an average worldwide market share of 24 percent. With more breakthrough technology, more extensive standard specifications and an even larger measure of individuality, the Mercedes-Benz E-Class has the potential to extend its market leadership.

Developed in a span of 48 months and at a cost of more than two billion Euro, the new E-Class has numerous specialized innovations that set new standards in vehicle safety, comfort and handling dynamics. It also demonstrates the company's worldwide leadership in automotive technology and design.

### Breakthroughs

Unprecedented breakthroughs offered by no other automobile brand are now incorporated in the new E-Class, or are available in this vehicle class for the first time. One example of the technological exclusivity at the highest level is the electro-hydraulic braking system, Sensotronic Brake Control. Specially developed by Mercedes-Benz, with the SBC, electronically the driver's brake command is transmitted to a powerful microcomputer, which simultaneously processes data on the current ride status from a variety of sensors and uses this to calculate and meter the ideal brake pressure. Combined with the Electronic Stability Program, it ensures maximum handling, safety and help in emergency situations.

An innovative multicontour seat (optional extra) which automatically adapts to the current driving situation and the enhanced Airmatic DC (Dual Control) air suspension system (optional extra) for outstanding ride comfort are also celebrating their automotive premier.

Mercedes-Benz has further optimized occupant safety with newly developed, intelligent restraint systems, which adapt to the current occupant and accident situation. In addition to adaptive front airbags, the new E-Class is for the first time equipped with two-stage belt force limiters and automatic weight classification for the front passenger. In combination with additional crash sensors, these systems provide occupant protection which is even more precise and adapted to specific accident situations. Side bags for the front passengers, large window bags, high-performance belt tensioners, automatic child seat recognition and a rollover sensor are further components of the standard safety features.

### Dynamic character

The design of the new E-Class continues the elegant lines of the preceding series and emphasizes the dynamic character of the saloon more than ever. The striking twin headlamps, with which the E-Class first made its mark in 1995 to initiate a design trend, have been redesigned and slightly angled back, characterizing the progressive, dynamic appearance of the front end. The same message is conveyed by the side view: typical E-Class, but with a new, unmistakable sportiness and elegance.

Two models are currently available from CMC in either silver or travertine beige, the gasoline-powered E-240 Elegance and the diesel-powered E-220CDI Elegance. Both come equipped with leather seats and the Elegance package which includes leather trimmed multifunction steering wheel, chrome highlights on the door handles and side paneling, stainless steel door, sill panels and light alloy wheels. Visit the CMC showroom for a test-drive.

# Industry back on its feet; injustice against Mir, Pablo

**FULL TANK**

*Al Mendoza*

AT THE RATE vehicles (cars, SUVs, AUVs, pickups, etc.) are being churned out these days, you would think the automotive industry is back on its feet. Look around you and there they are, rolling elegantly on the streets of the metropolis. Even in other urban centers of the archipelago, they are being seen driven by car buffs who are seemingly always on the lookout for new models.

Businessmen too are doing fleet buying. I know someone who just bought a dozen Fuegos. Just last week, he ordered two Isuzu trucks to beef up his motor pool.

And you know what?

Not only are buyers of cars, SUVs and AUVs being told by dealers to fall in line (courteously, of course). Even those wishing to own new trucks (six-wheelers or otherwise) need also to join the queue.

* * *

**Look, the home offices of car companies are being swamped with calls from customers who implore (on bended knees yet?) that their orders be expedited as to result in the speedy delivery of the vehicle.**

**These days, you can get your new Isuzu Crosswind in four weeks, maybe more.**

**You can get your new Honda CR-V in six weeks, maybe more.**

**You can get your new Mitsubishi Adventure in four weeks, maybe more.**

**You can get your new Toyota Altis, or Camry, in four weeks, maybe more.**

**You can get your new Hyundai Starex in four weeks, maybe more.**

**You can get your new Cefiro, or Exalta, in four weeks, maybe more.**

**For the Troopers, Revos, Pajeros, Durangos, F-150s, Patrols and Rav 4s, I guess it's the same.**

**So who said the motoring industry is still in the dumps?**

**Tell that to GMA.**

* * *

My heart aches each time I hear about a DPWH employee getting a raw deal. Reason: My departed father (bless his soul) retired as a general foreman of the DPWH after working there for nearly 40 years.

And so, here's something for President Macapagal-Arroyo to ponder on.

Look, she just suspended two undersecretaries of the Department of Public Works and Highways for the wrong reason. In so doing, she had done not just a boo-boo but a glaring injustice.

The President sacked Undersecretaries Edmundo B. Mir and Mabini Pablo for "command responsibility" effective Aug. 9. The alleged crime they had committed involved budget appropriations that did not pass their scrutiny.

I'm not sure whether Mir and Pablo are good builders of roads as they are in a department in charge with road-building, among others.

But that's beside the point.

The point here is, the President seemed to have acted in haste in handing out the decision. Haste makes waste, *di ba*?

* * *

**You see, had Ate Glo bothered to read Department Order 121 signed by then DPWH Secretary Gregorio R. Vigilar on May 21 1999, she would have discovered five pertinent provisions in it that exempt undersecretaries from any liability on matters of budget appropriations amounting from P500,000 to P1,000,000.**

**I happen to have a copy of that document.**

**The said five amendments to Department Order No. 42 instituted by Vigilar were adopted "in order to provide for greater efficiency in operations."**

**If you get the drift, you will conclude that Mir and Pablo were punished for implementing the provisions of a department circular.**

**My, my.**

**Until Aug. 9, Mir, from Mangaldan, Pangasinan, has never been "punished" in the 40 years or so that he has devoted his life to the DPWH. Not even a reprimand. On Dec. 8, 2003, he is due to retire—at the ripe age of 65.**

**Is this our way of rewarding a worker who has dutifully served the government for four decades—without a single blemish to his name while in office?**

**You be the judge.**

* * *

Here's a letter from a doctor of medicine:

Dear Sir,

This happened on June 24, 2002, along the North Luzon Expressway.

I was on my way home at about 10:30 p.m. when I noticed a big object under the Pajero I was trailing; it turned out to be a rock. I tried to avoid the rock but couldn't because there were cars on my left. I applied the brakes, but it was too late. I hit the rock, causing a hole in my transmission.

After exiting in Valenzuela, I noticed that my car was losing power. I stopped at a nearby gasoline station and had my car towed home.

The next day, my mechanic said my transmission suffered a 2x4-cm hole. He said it was beyond repair and needs to be replaced. A second opinion seconded my mechanic's diagnosis.

Initially, I wanted to complain to the NLEX management. But, on second thought, I thought it was useless to do it. It would only waste my time and resources.

I thought of writing you and have this published to remind the NLEX management it's their duty and responsibility to make driving at the expressway safe for all motorists. God bless and more power.

Sincerely,

Ernest Francis G. Nora, M.D.
5 Del Pilar St., Malinta,
Valenzuela City

* * *

**You should always be wary when gassing up. Here are some rules to follow:**

**1) Make sure the right fuel is being pumped into your car tank.**

**2) Keep an eye on the one about to do it.**

**3) Don't pay until the gassing is over.**

**4) Demand for your receipt.**

**A lot of times, motorists have come to me complaining of gas dealers pumping the wrong fuel into their vehicles.**

**When it happens—gas dealers pumping the wrong fuel into your car—shouldn't the gas dealer be liable for damages?**

**Maybe, that's one reason you hardly see gasoline boys/girls in the United States as over there, motorists usually do the tank-filling themselves.**

**Over here, we have gasoline boys/girls partly because we are Third World and their presence is a reflection of the nation's endemic unemployment problem. Be that as it may, still the gas dealers should be responsible for the mistakes of their employees.**

**There ought to be a law on that.**

**Calling on Congress/Senate?**

* * *

QUOTE ME. Make it more safe. Switch the headlights on and the flashers at the same time during a heavy downpour.

# Truck makers slam influx of secondhand vehicles

From p. C1

year with the start of Afta, which would put their tariffs at par with duties on completely knocked down units (CKDs). The government currently gives preferred duties of 3 to 7 percent on assembly packs or CKDs to encourage local assembly, while completely built-up units (CBUs) are levied a 30 percent duty.

"It's never too late for the government to rethink its commitments because Afta allows governments to delay or suspend tariff reductions especially if it will cause hardships to strategic industries. Some countries in the region were able to do this for their car industry and I see no reason the Philippines cannot do it here," suggests Nacua.

### Violation of laws?

Even with the Afta implementation a year away, the industry has been plagued by the dramatic surge of imported secondhand vehicles, which are now eating up sales of brand-new vehicles. Although imported secondhand vehicles were in the country since 1995, it dramatically grew when the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority began hosting auctions for secondhand vehicles in 1998 and its popularity has spawned counterparts in several parts of Luzon.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo defended the Subic auctions, saying these created some 3,000 jobs in the auto repair and conversion business in Olongapo, Bataan and Zambales and generated the bulk of the SBMA's revenue collections over the last three years. "The importation of used motor vehicles has been liberalized under the law and executive orders from the President. This means that the importation of used passenger buses, construction equipment, passenger vans and utility equipment is lawful, subject to the safety and environment standards of the Land Transportation Office, Bureau of Import Standards (a unit of the Department of Trade and Industry) and SBMA," the chair said defending the importation.

The Motor Vehicles Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc., on the other hand, says it is just providing consumers with affordable vehicles that the assemblers cannot offer. It further warns that stopping the business will raise the cost of transportation and prices of basic goods.

For the TMA's part, Nacua points out there might be laws that have been violated: "There are sectors saying their existence is illegal. To really find this out, let us review the Memorandum Order 346 or the Guidelines of the Motor Vehicle Development Program, which allows importation of only brand-new completely built-up passenger cars, commercial vehicles and motorcycles. Let us also consider Republic Act 8506, which prohibits importation, sale and registration of right-hand-drive motor vehicles. We might be overlooking other laws and we need a definite answer—the sooner the better."

In a related development, Congress is planning to conduct a probe on the surge in secondhand vehicle imports here in the country because of their dire impact on the local automotive assembly and parts-making industry and the lingering doubts on their roadworthiness and environment-compliance.

Speaker Jose de Venecia signed Resolution 208 directing the House committees on transportation and communications and trade and industry to investigate why the auction and the importation of preowned vehicles have continued despite a directive by President Macapagal-Arroyo stopping this trade during the National Economic Summit in December 2001.

### Alarming discrepancy

| | TOTAL INDUSTRY SALES | | | NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRANTS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000 | 2001 | % Growth | 2000 | 2001 | % Growth |
| NCR | 63,306 | 55,221 | -12.8% | 98,587 | 91,148 | -7.5% |
| Luzon | 73,225 | 66,020 | -9.8% | 128,887 | 125,329 | -2.8% |
| Visayas | 6,308 | 6,582 | 4.3% | 33,485 | 35,945 | 7.3% |
| Mindanao | 4,461 | 4,069 | -8.8% | 9,676 | 12,421 | 28.35% |
| TOTAL | 83,994 | 76,671 | -8.7% | 172,051 | 173,695 | 1.0% |

TMA DATA

### No contest

The TMA presented a comparative chart, based on data taken from the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc. and the Automobile Association of the Philippines, showing how total industry sales fared against total vehicle registrations as reported by the LTO. While the total industry sales documents only brand-new vehicles sold, the total vehicle registration lists vehicles either brand-new or secondhand.

Last year's total industry sales tumbled by 8.7 percent, or from 83,994 units in 2000 down to 76,671 units in 2001. Newly registered vehicles, on the other hand, grew one percent, or from 172,695 new vehicles registered in 2000 to 173,695 in 2001.

"From these data, we could see tremendous growth of secondhand vehicles in the informal or gray market. They enter the country through small business outfits, auctioneers and other not so legal means. There is an obvious discrepancy: while the formal sector is reeling, the other is thriving. Obviously there's something wrong in this picture," warns Nacua.

The TMA also presented a breakdown on how each commercial vehicle category is faring against its newly registered counterparts. While the combined utility vehicle and sports utility vehicle sales went down from 93 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2001, their newly registered counterparts have grown from 7 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2001. On a similar trend, truck sales went down from 24 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2001 as its newly registered counterpart grew from 76 percent in 2000 to 82 percent in 2001.

Only bus sales went up by 29 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2001 as compared to its newly registered counterpart that posted 69 percent in 2000 and went down to 59 percent in 2001. Reminisces Nacua: "Taxes are quite high in importing one and banks won't finance secondhand buses. The first batch of imported secondhand buses didn't fare well in our highways rendering unusable within five years. Nobody can fix them either since spare parts are not available here."

### Growth of AUV

The commercial vehicle segment that the TMA represents is composed of several types of vehicles. The Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) belong to Category 1 while the group composed of sports utility vehicles (SUVs), pickups, vans (with Gross Vehicle Weight of up to 3,000 kg) is classified under Category 2. Light trucks (with GVW between 3,001 kg and 6,000 kg) belong to Category 3 while trucks and buses are under Categories 4 (with GVW between 6,001 kg and 18,000 kg) and 5 (with GVW over 18,000 kg).

From these commercial vehicle types, only the AUVs enjoy a significant growth rate, at 36 percent, from the same period last year (January to July). Except for trucks and buses, which grew by a measly 4 percent, the other vehicle categories have dipped in performance as the light commercial vehicles (LCVs) posted -2 percent while light trucks registered -22 percent. "Were it not for the AUVs, this segment would not have gotten a 15 percent growth rate which is far better than the -2 percent performance of the passenger car segment and the total industry's 9 percent growth," reports Elizabeth Lee, TMA president.

Since 1998 the market has been shifting its preference toward commercial vehicles—88,977 units of passenger cars sold against commercial vehicles' 73,118 units sold. This year's period from January to June saw commercial vehicle sales eclipsing passenger car sales, 33,793 units against 12,815. "This means from the same period last year, the commercial vehicle market has grown 15 percent compared to passenger car market's -2 percent performance," explains Lee.

Despite this growth, vehicle sales performance has not yet recovered from its 1996 peak. It was the time when total sales of both commercial vehicles and passenger cars reached 162,095 and to reach that mark once more could be a major challenge not only for the TMA but for the whole industry as well.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2002
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE

VEGGIE Dumplings

# Great greenservings

Story on page D3

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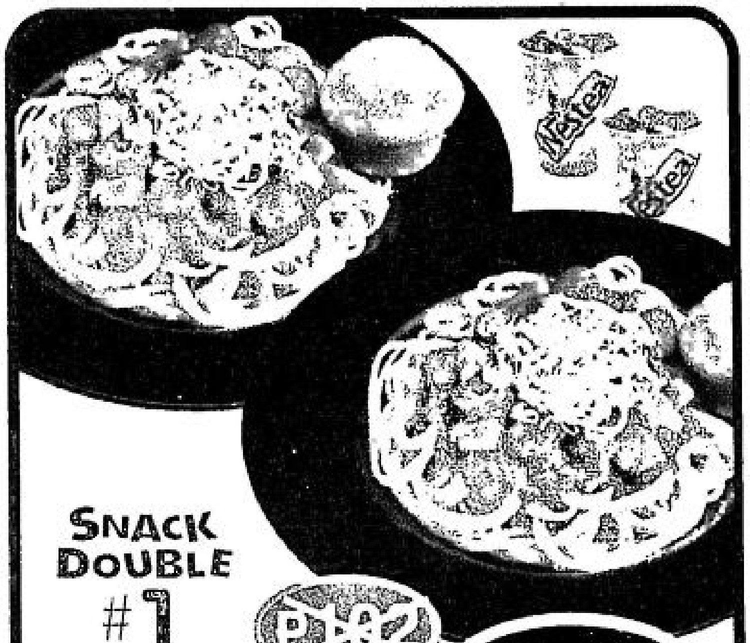
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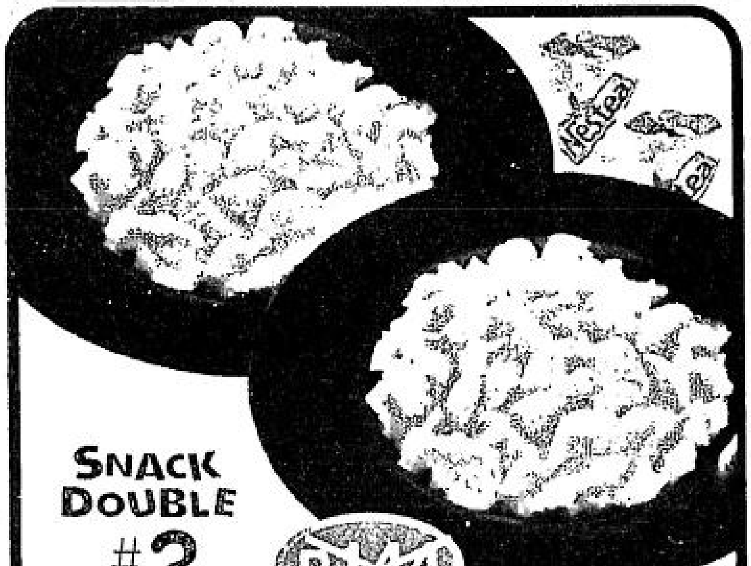
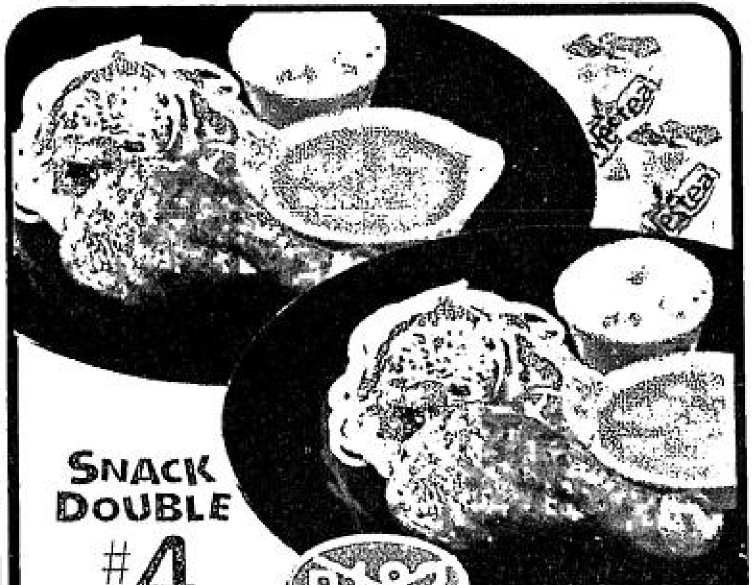

SNACK DOUBLE #3
~~P144~~ only P80
- 2 Large Macaroni and Cheese
- 2 Iced Tea* 196.80 ml.

P 40.00 PER PERSON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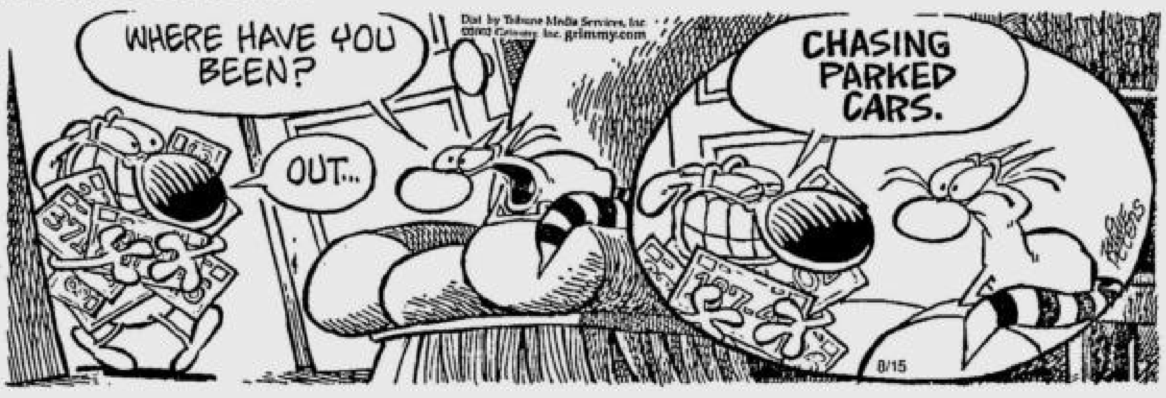
BY MIKE PETERS


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
OUT...
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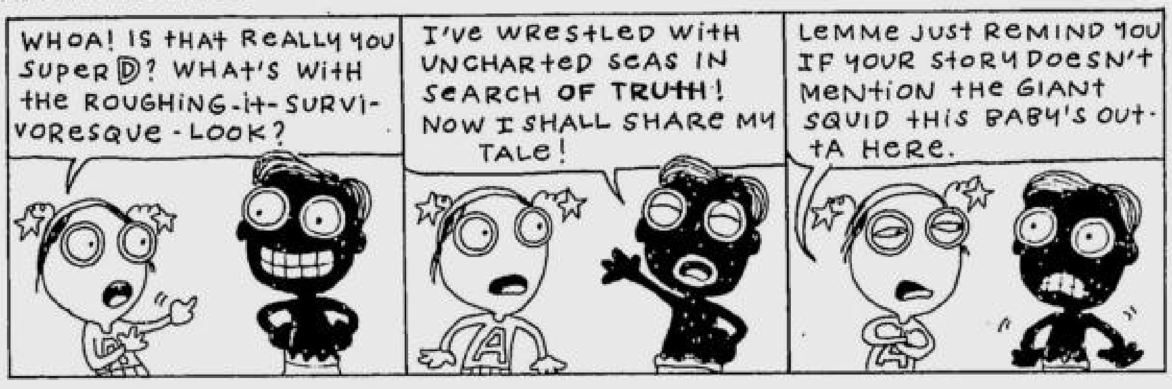
## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHOA! IS THAT REALLY YOU SUPER D? WHAT'S WITH THE ROUGHING-IT-SURVIVORESQUE-LOOK?
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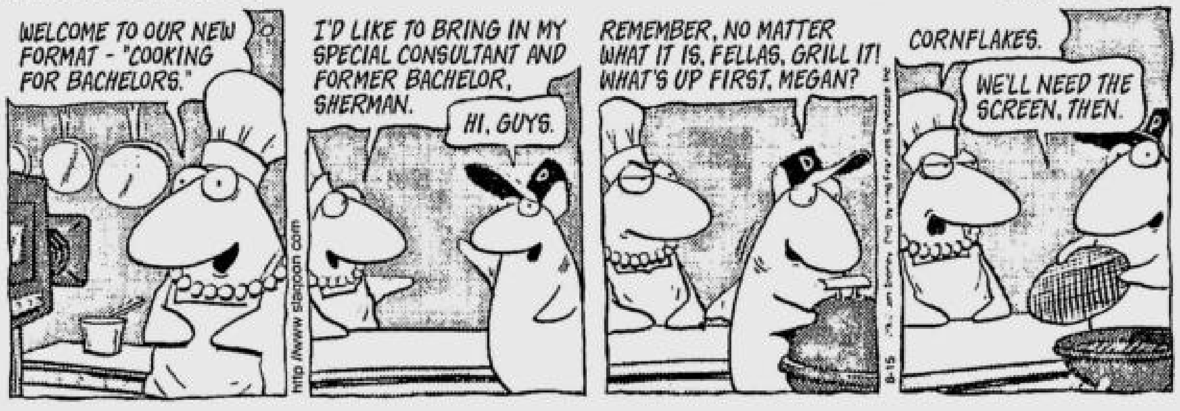
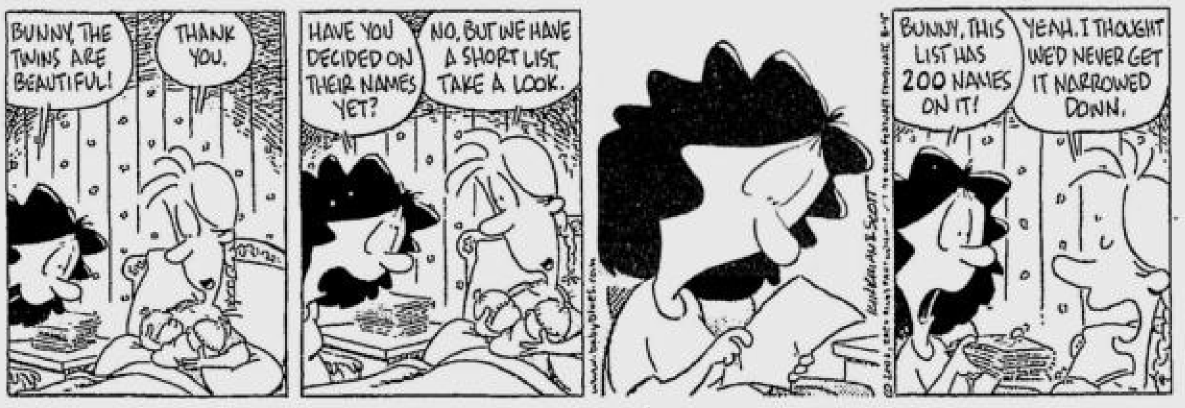
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELCOME TO OUR NEW FORMAT - "COOKING FOR BACHELORS."
I'D LIKE TO BRING IN MY SPECIAL CONSULTANT AND FORMER BACHELOR, SHERMAN.
HI, GUYS.
REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, FELLAS, GRILL IT! WHAT'S UP FIRST, MEGAN?
CORNFLAKES.
WE'LL NEED THE SCREEN, THEN.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-15

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BUNNY, THE TWINS ARE BEAUTIFUL!
THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON THEIR NAMES YET?
NO, BUT WE HAVE A SHORT LIST. TAKE A LOOK.
BUNNY, THIS LIST HAS 200 NAMES ON IT!
YEAH. I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER GET IT NARROWED DOWN.
www.babyblues.com

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Linda Ronstadt, Jesse Ventura, Brian Austin Green

**Happy Birthday:** You'll be hard working, responsible and disciplined this year. Your ability to help others will enhance your reputation as well as bring you into contact with potential partners. This is a year of expansion both mentally and physically. Choose to forge ahead in a positive manner. You numbers are 8, 13, 14, 18, 23, 37

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Memories may come back to haunt you today. You need to stay calm and refuse to get drawn into an argument. Upset will stand in the way of your accomplishing what you set out to do.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Health may be an issue today if you allow yourself to become stressed. Advancement and recognition can be yours if you stay calm and act mature. Present projects with confidence.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your self-confidence will ensure that you get your point across. Greater communication and interaction with others can be expected. Begin to make positive changes to yourself and your looks.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Get involved in social activities that include your family. A change in your relationship with others will be due to your improved attitude and willingness to lend a hand.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You should consider doing a bit of traveling about today. You will discover a new place to go with friends or you will meet someone new while en route. Do something with a neighbor or friend.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can expect to have some added responsibilities or burdens due to problems that older relatives are going through. You will accomplish the most if you put your energy into home-improvement projects.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You will not let life pass you by today. You will have the strength to walk away from a relationship that no longer provides you with the mental and physical stimulation you require.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will have opposition and conflict with competitors. Your employer is likely to sympathize, so don't bother complaining. If you are going to go after your goals, don't stop halfway just because you face obstacles.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will attract many new friends as well as those in a position to grant you favors. You will be proud of the affiliations you have and you will go the extra mile to support those who belong to the same club as you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You must be careful not to let fanatics bully you into attending a group meeting. You will be a bit of a wanderer today and this could lead to all sorts of unusual happenings.

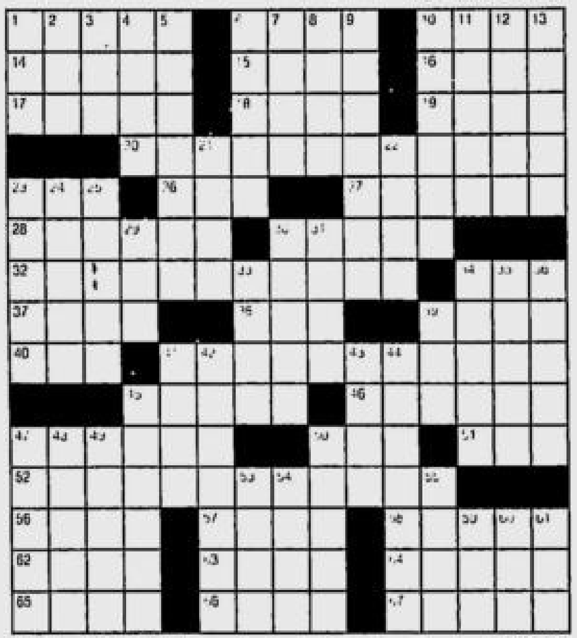
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You'll be eager to learn about turning your money into greater profits. You will seek knowledge that you know can be put to good use. By listening to what others have to say you will be able to make a wise choice.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You can expect to have more financial responsibility today. Be careful not to get put in a position of blame. Joint ventures will not be as they appear.

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, caring and moody. Change is the one thing that will make you grumpy. You will always need time to adjust to whatever is new or different from what you are used to.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



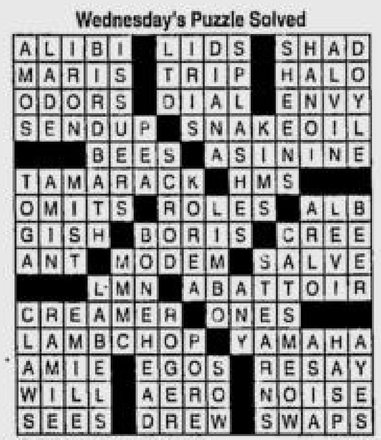
By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

8/15/02

**ACROSS**
1 Fails to enunciate
6 Russian assembly
10 Gay Nineties and the like
14 Fable master
15 Oh my gosh!
16 Full-bodied
17 Heat's home
18 Commercial award
19 Taj Mahal's city
20 Office drudge
23 Stick up
26 Meadow, poetically
27 Fly to avoid
28 Showy shrub
30 Arab chieftain: var.
32 Heavy hitter
34 Sodden
37 Chinese leader?
38 School of thought
39 Singing star
40 Susan of "L.A. Law"
41 Prude, perhaps
45 Festive events
46 Mean
47 Gibraltar passage
50 Place to surf
51 Porker's pad
52 Social butterfly, say
56 Starter chips
57 Steak order
58 Heart line
62 Way out
63 Larger-than-life
64 Basmati and brown
65 Gets off track
66 Clammy
67 Imbibed

**DOWN**
1 Playwright Shepard
2 Honolulu garland
3 Dos Passos work
4 Cavort
5 Pitchman
6 First record label to use Dolby
7 Citrus hybrid
8 Pop in the post
9 Former orphan
10 Pencil end
11 Starboard side
12 Pieces of pastures
13 Don't be such a hog!
21 Tidal situation
22 Exploitive one
23 Breakneck
24 Unstable oxidizing agent
25 Risque
29 August sign
30 Bridge seats
31 Words of wonderment
33 Turkish bread?
34 Uses a dishcloth
35 Occurrence
36 Overdue
39 Part of an e-mail address
41 Beach toy
42 Changed a bit
43 Pastry items
44 Ready to go along
45 Rubbernecking crowd
47 Black card
48 Quartet member
49 Chopper blade
50 Sunken ship
53 Family man
54 Celtic land
55 Black, to Balzac
59 Sony rival
60 Sawbuck
61 Invite

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**



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| A | L | I | B | I | ■ | L | I | D | S | ■ | S | H | A | D |
| M | A | R | I | S | ■ | T | R | I | P | ■ | H | A | L | O |
| O | D | O | R | S | ■ | D | I | A | L | ■ | E | N | V | Y |
| S | E | N | D | U | P | ■ | S | N | A | K | E | O | I | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | B | E | E | S | ■ | A | S | I | N | I | N | E |
| T | A | M | A | R | A | C | K | ■ | H | M | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| O | M | I | T | S | ■ | R | O | L | E | S | ■ | A | L | B |
| G | I | S | H | ■ | B | O | R | I | S | ■ | C | R | E | E |
| A | N | T | ■ | M | O | D | E | M | ■ | S | A | L | V | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | M | N | ■ | A | B | A | T | T | O | I | R |
| C | R | E | A | M | E | R | ■ | O | N | E | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| L | A | M | B | C | H | O | P | ■ | Y | A | M | A | H | A |
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| S | E | E | S | ■ | D | R | E | W | ■ | S | W | A | P | S |

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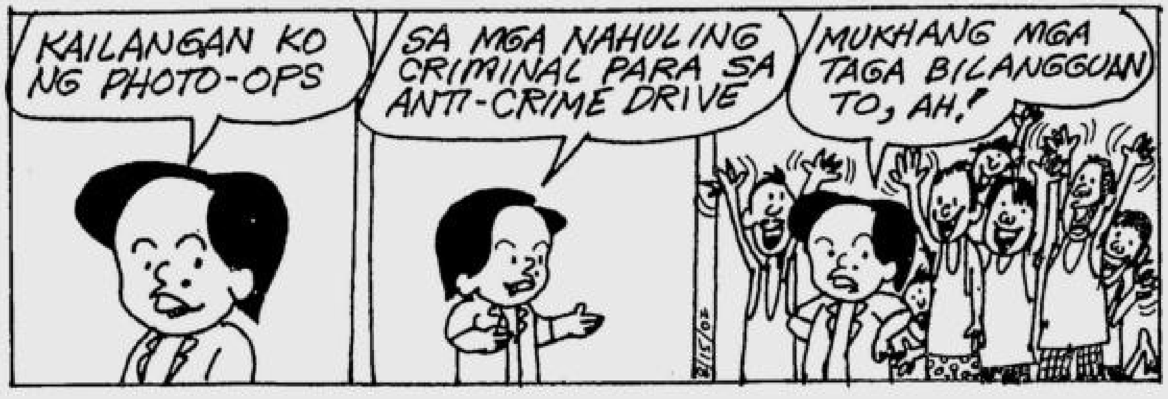
8/15/02

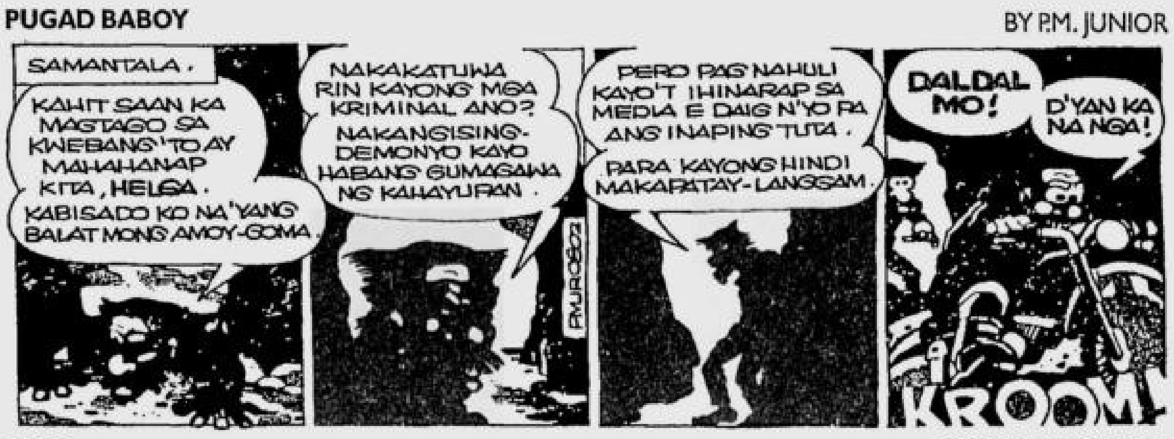
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN KO NG PHOTO-OPS
SA MGA NAHULING CRIMINAL PARA SA ANTI-CRIME DRIVE
MUKHANG MGA TAGA BILANGGUAN TO, AH!
8/15/02

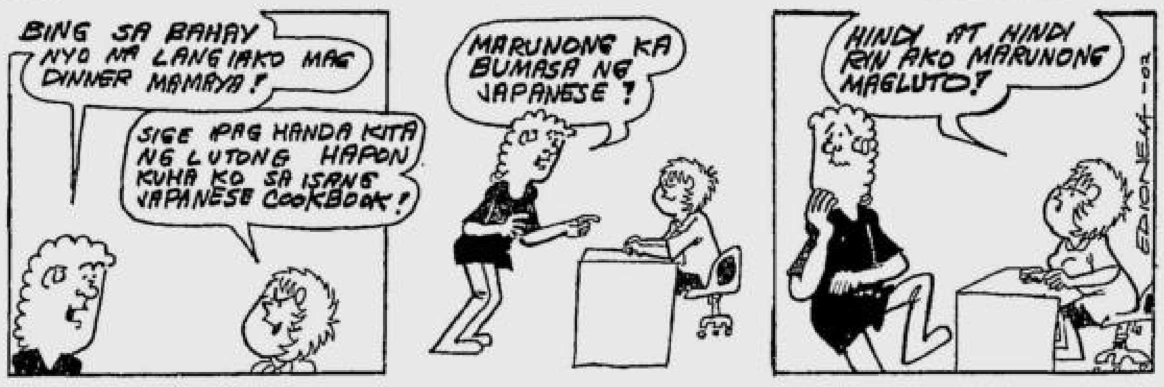
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SAMANTALA.
KAHIT SAAN KA MAGTAGO SA KWEBANG 'TO AY MAHAHANAP KITA, HELGA.
KABISADO KO NA 'YANG BALAT MONG AMOY-GOMA.
NAKAKATUWA RIN KAYONG MGA KRIMINAL ANO? NAKANGISING-DEMONYO KAYO HABANG GUMAGAWA NG KAHAYUPAN.
PMJR0802
PERO PAG NAHULI KAYO'T IHINARAP SA MEDIA E DAIG N'YO PA ANG INAPING TUTA.
PARA KAYONG HINDI MAKAPATAY-LANGGAM.
DALDAL MO!
D'YAN KA NA NGA!
KROOM

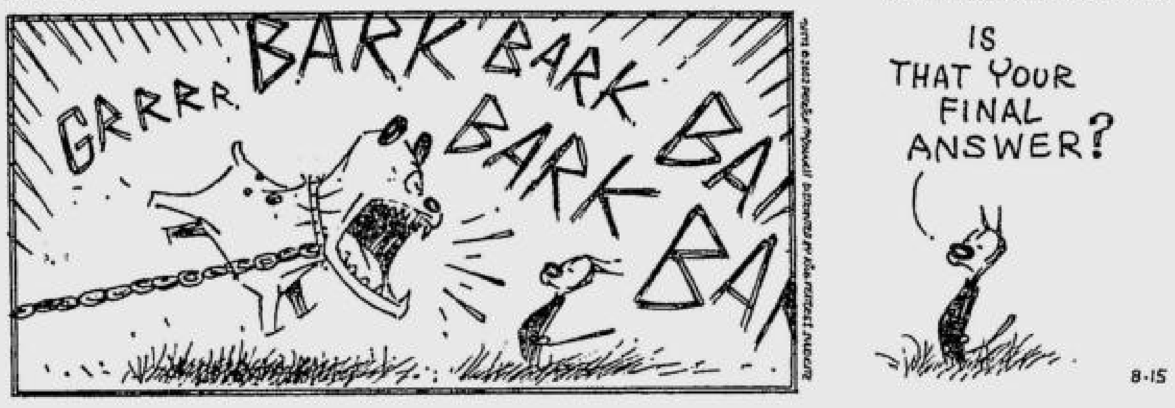
## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BING SA BAHAY NYO NA LANG IAKO MAG DINNER MAMAYA!
SIGE IPAG HANDA KITA NG LUTONG HAPON KUHA KO SA ISANG JAPANESE COOKBOOK!
MARUNONG KA BUMASA NG JAPANESE?
HINDI AT HINDI RIN AKO MARUNONG MAGLUTO!
EDIONELA -02

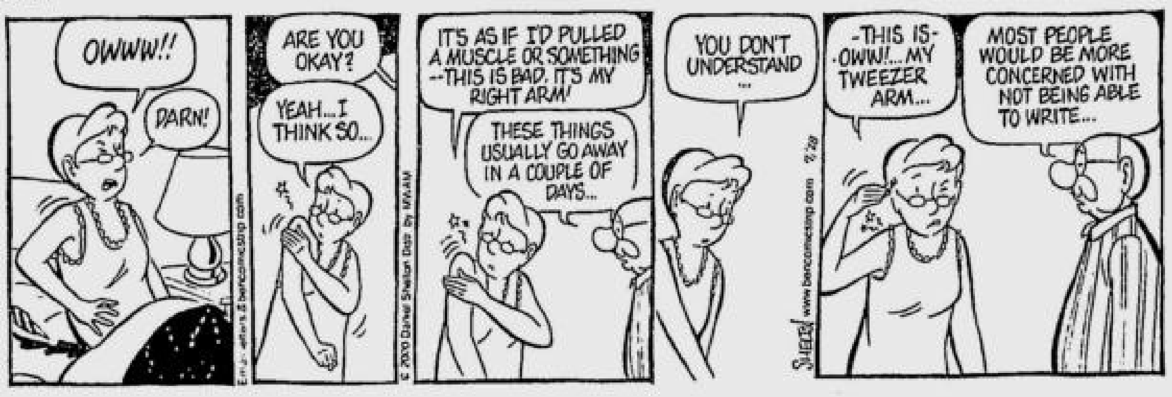
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GRRRR
BARK BARK
BARK
BA
BA
IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?
8-15

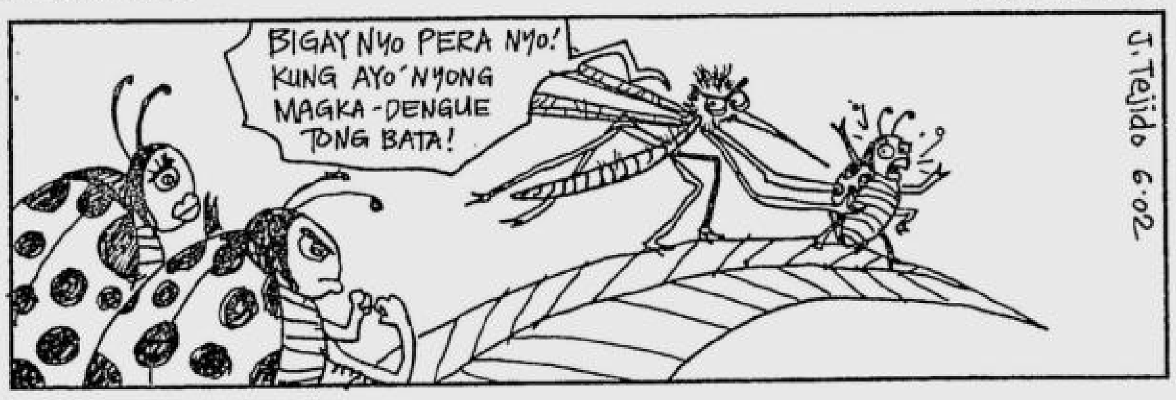
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OWWW!!
DARN!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... I THINK SO...
IT'S AS IF I'D PULLED A MUSCLE OR SOMETHING --THIS IS BAD. IT'S MY RIGHT ARM!
THESE THINGS USUALLY GO AWAY IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
-THIS IS- OWW!... MY TWEEZER ARM...
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO WRITE...
www.bencomicstrip.com

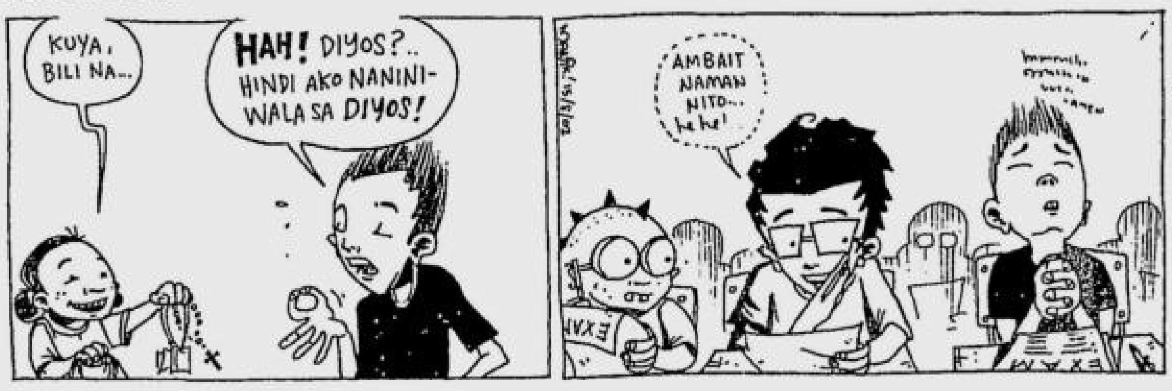
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BIGAY NYO PERA NYO! KUNG AYO'NYONG MAGKA-DENGUE TONG BATA!
J. Tejido 6.02

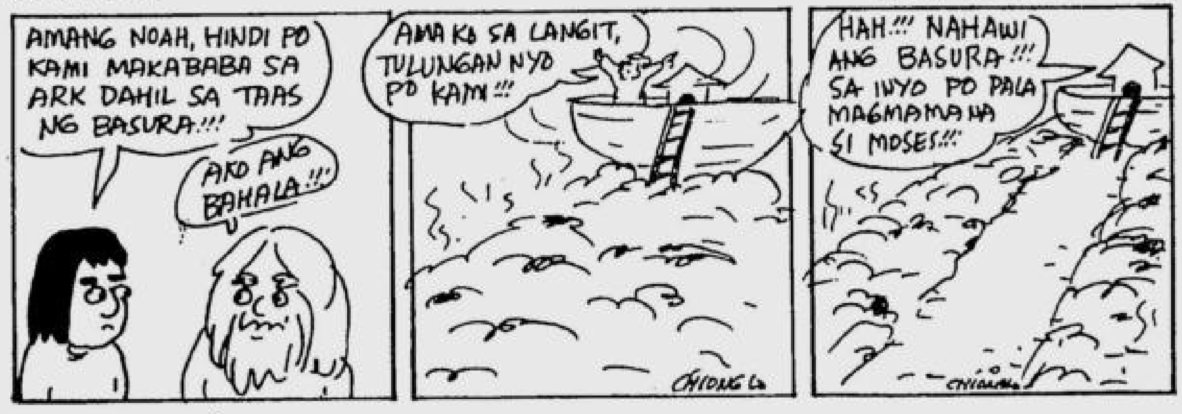
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KUYA, BILI NA...
HAH! DIYOS?.. HINDI AKO NANINIWALA SA DIYOS!
AMBAIT NAMAN NITO... he he!
EXAM

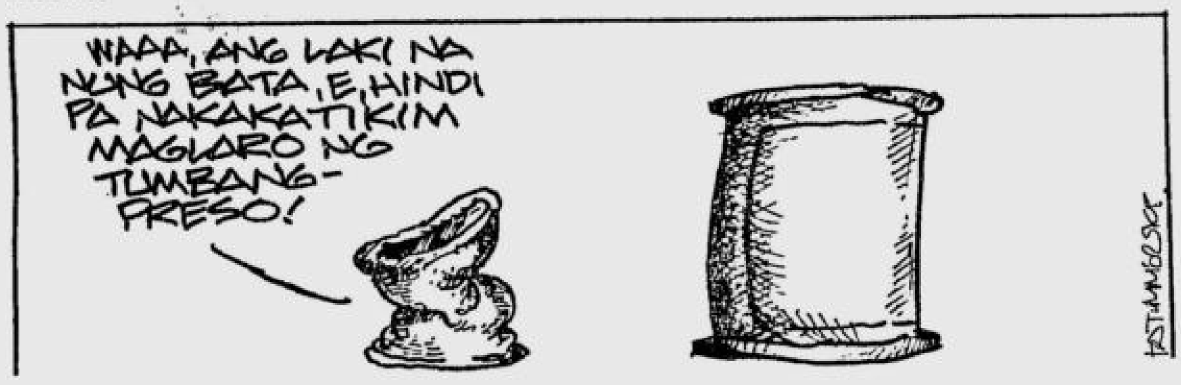
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AMANG NOAH, HINDI PO KAMI MAKABABA SA ARK DAHIL SA TAAS NG BASURA!!!
AKO ANG BAHALA!!!
AMA KO SA LANGIT, TULUNGAN NYO PO KAMI!!!
HAH!!! NAHAWI ANG BASURA!!! SA INYO PO PALA MAGMAMANA SI MOSES!!!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

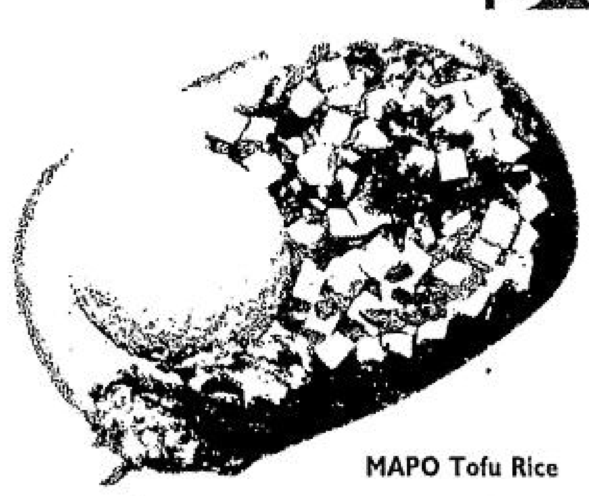
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAAA, ANG LAKI NA NUNG BATA, E, HINDI PA NAKAKATIKIM MAGLARO NG TUMBANG-PRESO!

HOMETOWN Tofu

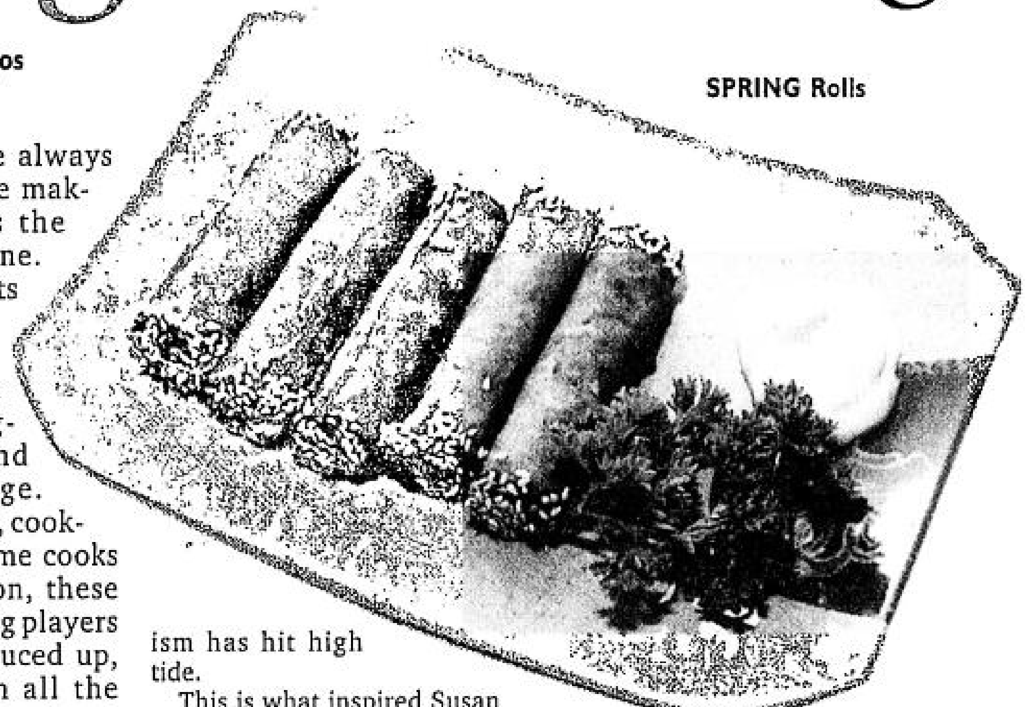
# Greatgreenservings

## Daily Veggie restaurant and café serves meat-free dishes with unexpected flavor and a gourmet twist



MAPO Tofu Rice

**Text by Rowena C. Burgos**
**Photos by Roger Carpio**



SPRING Rolls

SIDE dishes have always been stars in the making, and now's the time for them to shine. For years, nutritionists and other health experts have been telling us to move those all-important vegetables, legumes and fruits to center stage. With restaurant chefs, cookbook authors and home cooks paying more attention, these unheralded supporting players have finally been spruced up, spiced up and given all the glamour they need to play a leading role.

Besides being low in fat, vegetarian food is now full of exciting flavors and looks as good as it tastes. It's leading-edge cuisine, with restaurant menus and consumer magazines rushing to introduce their readers to vegetarian dishes. The trend towards vegetarianism has hit high tide.

This is what inspired Susan Chua to put up Daily Veggie n' Café (tels. 711-8209/7678/3214), which entices guests with flavorful low-fat, veg-friendly menus. "We need to start educating our guests to think like vegetarians," she says. "We need to watch out for ourselves. Eating healthfully is proactive—it keeps the doctor away."

Susan Chua has been a vegetarian since 1994; so are her husband Antonio and children Terry, 23, Samuel, 22, and Tiffany, 18. "We didn't force them to become vegetarians but I've always prepared really good food." For every meal, she cooks one meat viand and the rest are veggie dishes.

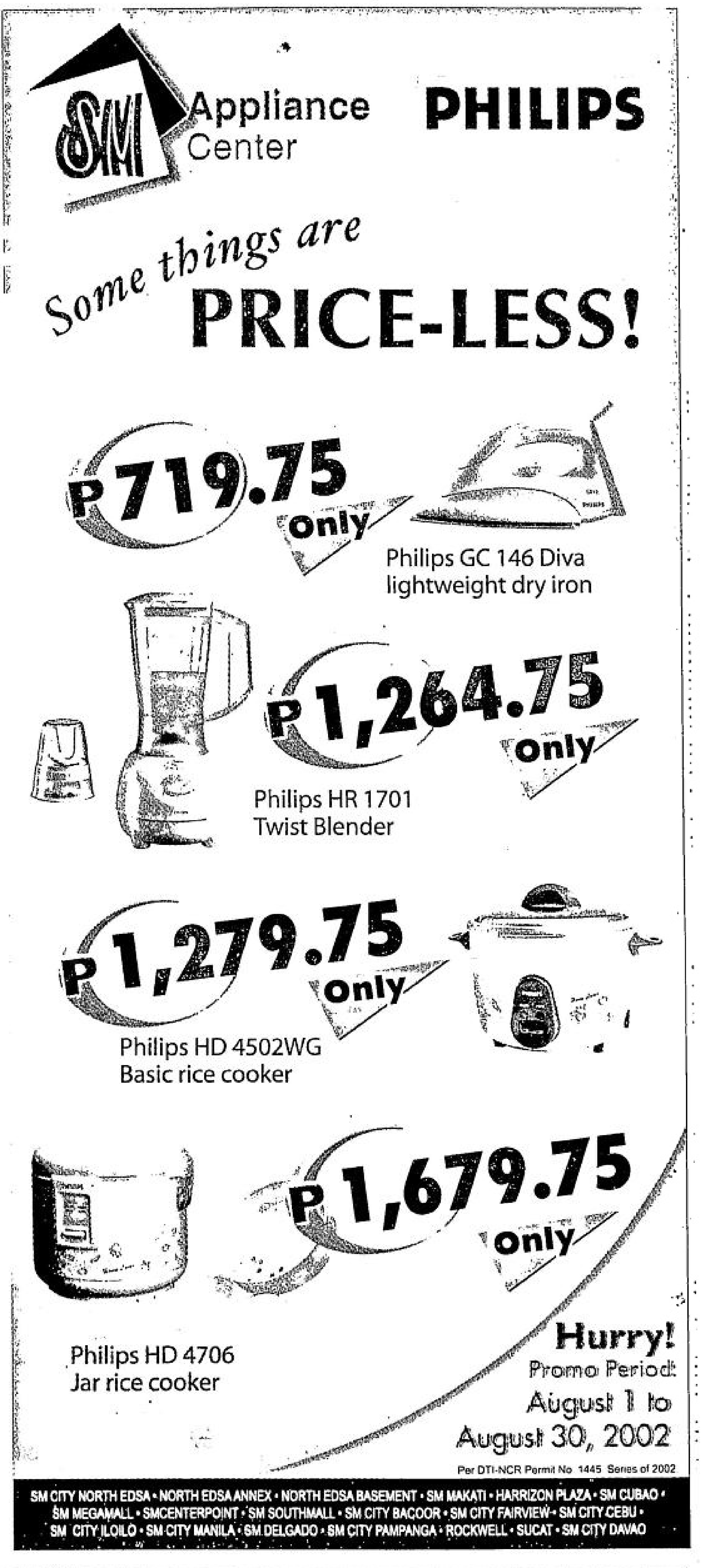
Chua used to have migraine, sinusitis and a gall bladder problem. Her friend of 30 years convinced her to go vegetarian. She now even reads books on vegetarianism like "365 Good Reasons to be a Vegetarian."

Although full-time vegetarianism is not an aspiration for most Filipinos, many are beginning to enjoy a diet that occasionally includes meatless meals. Many are retreating gradually from the habit of equating eating vegetables with punishment—as in, "Eat your vegetables, or else!"

And like the vegetarian friends she has shared meals with, Chua has re-

GREAT/ p.D4

BEANCURD Skin with mushroom



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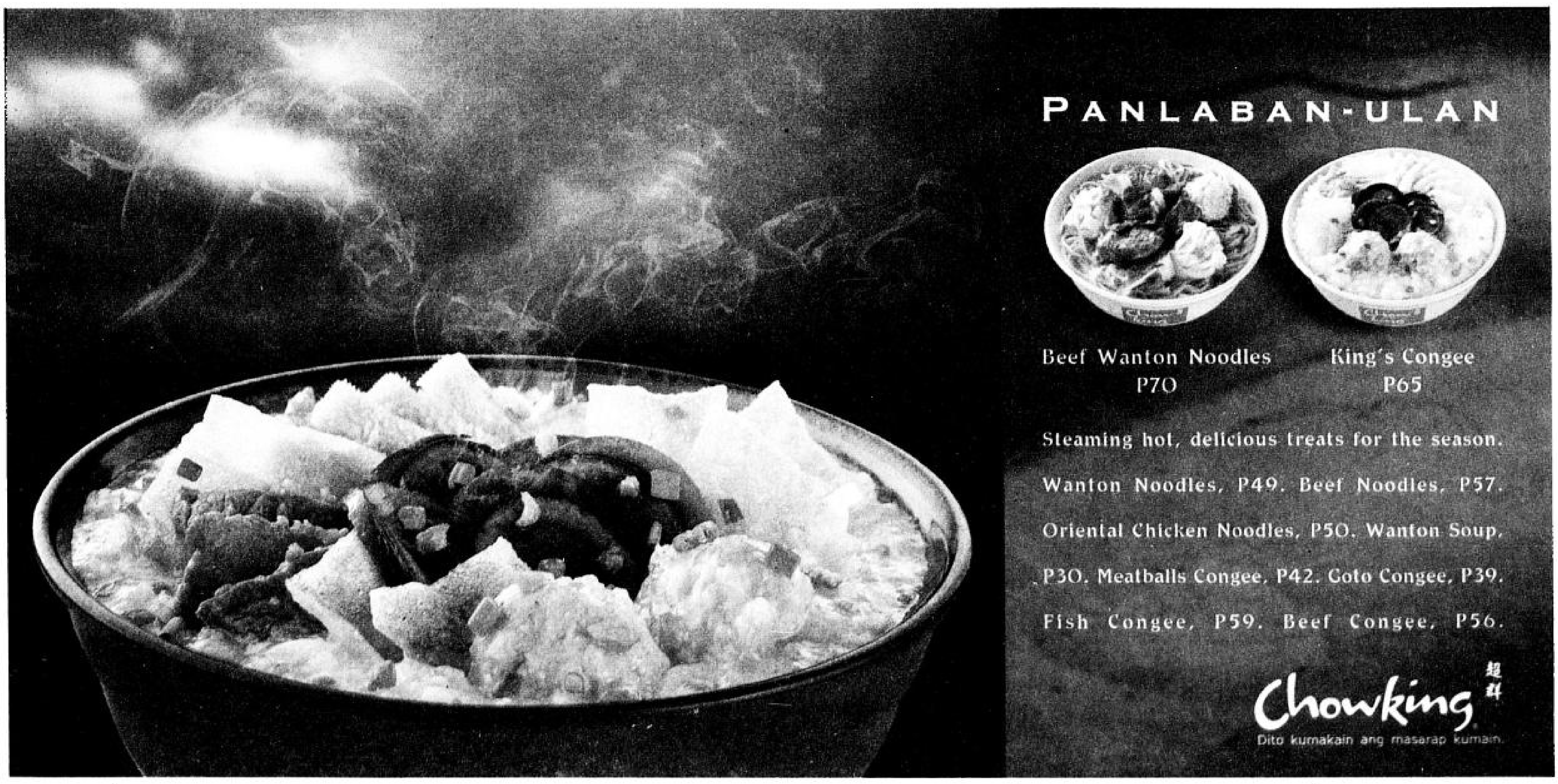
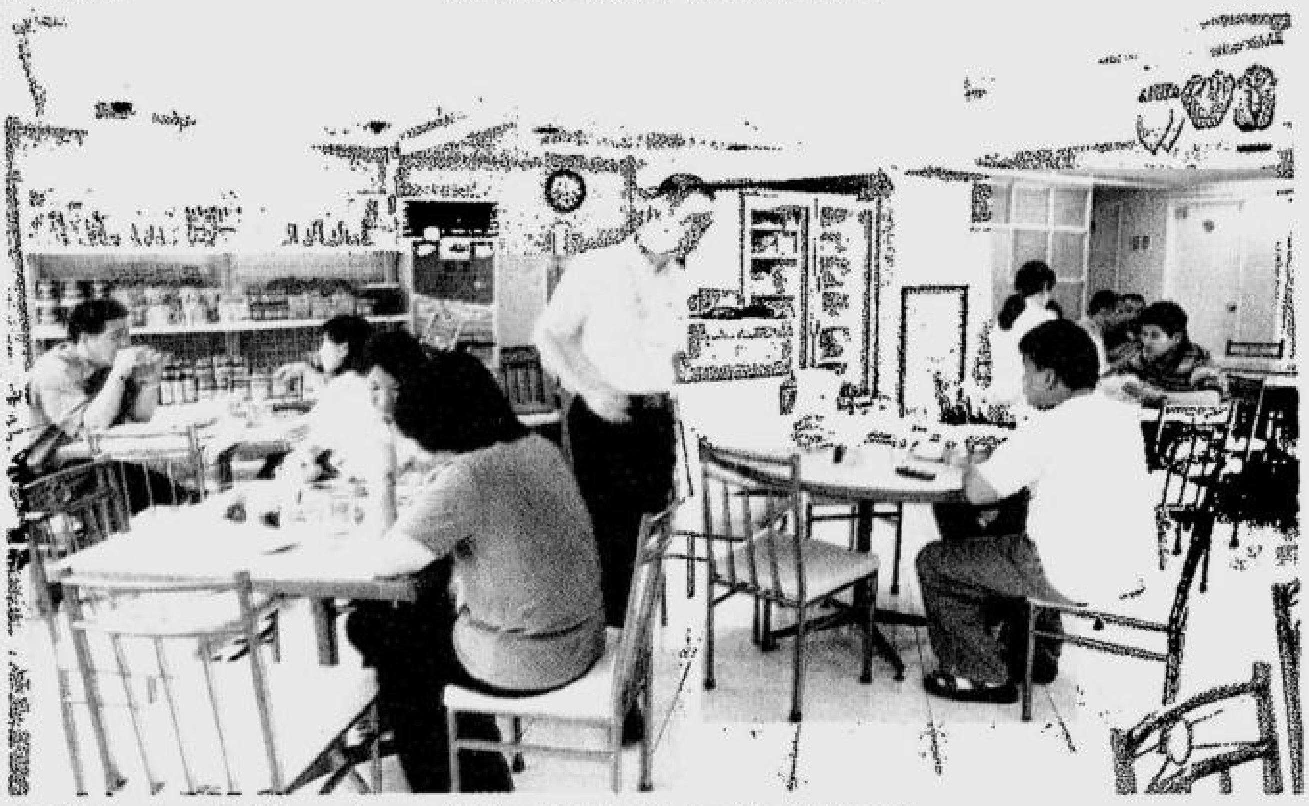


PANLABAN-ULAN
Beef Wanton Noodles
P70
King's Congee
P65
Steaming hot, delicious treats for the season. Wanton Noodles, P49. Beef Noodles, P57. Oriental Chicken Noodles, P50. Wanton Soup, P30. Meatballs Congee, P42. Goto Congee, P39. Fish Congee, P59. Beef Congee, P56.
Chowking 超群
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.



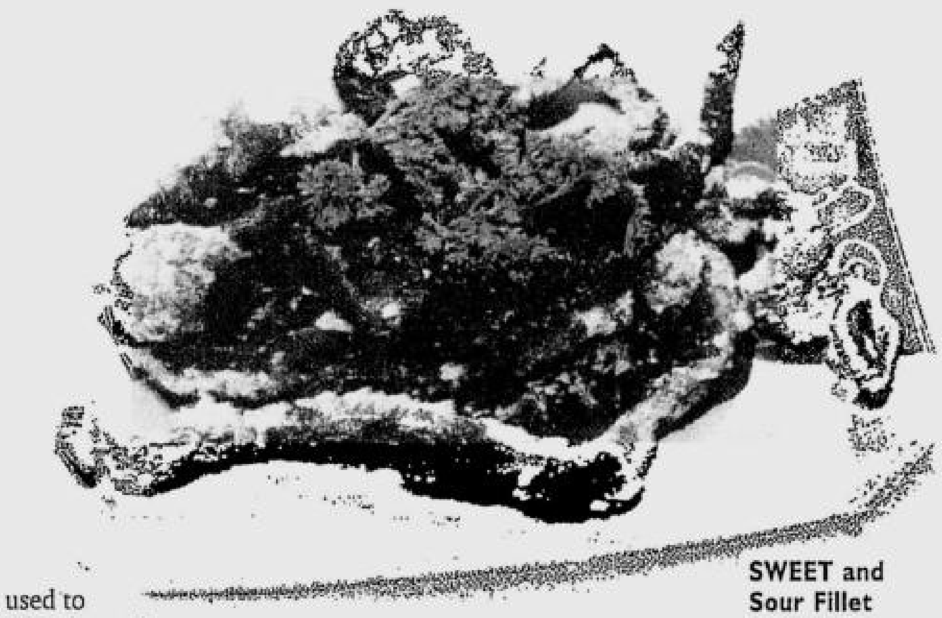
DAILY Veggie n' Café lures diners with flavorful, low-fat, veg-friendly menus.

# Greatgreenservings

From page D3

mained committed to vegetarian principles. The reasons? Concerns over animal welfare, chemicals, overprocessed foods and non-sustainable agriculture.

"Besides, studies say that balanced vegetarian diets can reduce the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, adult-onset diabetes, obesity and some forms of cancer. The American Dietetic Association reports that vegetarians also appear to be at lower risk for osteoporosis and other nutrition-related health conditions," Chua says.



SWEET and Sour Fillet

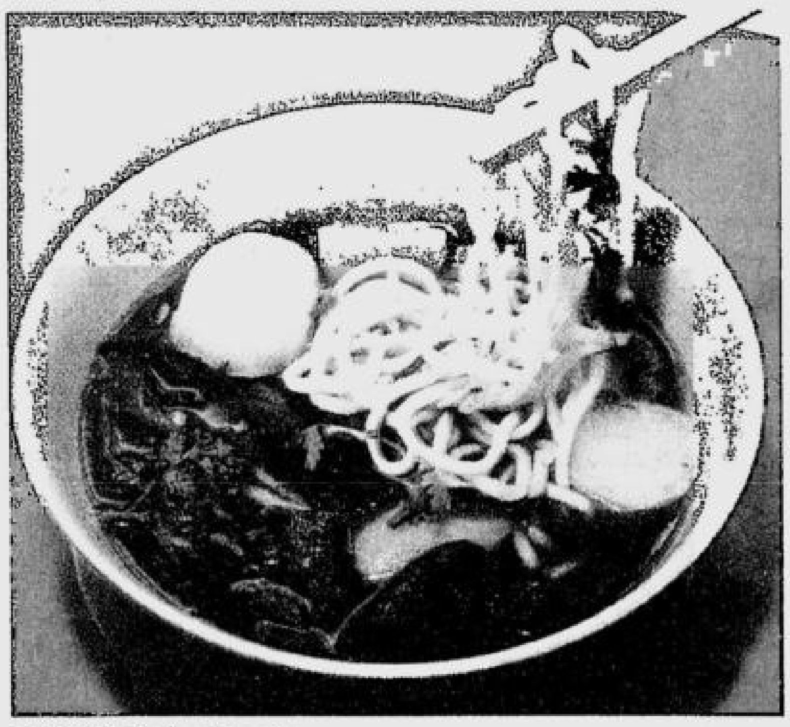
A commerce graduate, Chua used to own three restaurants that proffered mostly meat dishes. For Daily Veggie n' Café, which reflects her own passion for freshness, nutrition and, of course, great taste, she developed recipes for one year with her sister-in-law Jully Wu. Together, they attended a 10-day cooking course in Taiwan in 2000. "We have an undying pursuit of the freshest produce, and we prepare everything from scratch ourselves."

### Low in fat, high in flavor

Whether we define vegetarian cuisine by what it doesn't have (animal products) or by what it does (lots of phytonutrients), meat-free cuisine has become stylish and sophisticated, with unexpected flavor and a gourmet twist.

At the non-smoking 80-seater Daily Veggie n' Cafe, which is located at 540 Banawe St. corner Calamba St., QC, Chua masterminds the best vegan meals your taste buds will ever encounter.

The flavor of dried gluten in Mapo Tofu Rice is subtle while those of Mushrooms fried with sweet sauce, Veggie Dumplings, and Spring Rolls dance on our tongues.



DAILY'S Choice Noodle

Though Daily's Choice Noodle (mushroom stalk, carrots, radish and noodles) and Hometown Tofu appear to be ordinary Chinese dishes, their flavors are outstanding. The noodles of Daily's Choice Noodle are neither too crisp nor too soft, while the latter's house sauce is a delightful combination of smoky and sweet.

As Chua's recipes illustrate, classic meat, poultry and fish dishes can serve as inspirational springboards to creating meatless flights of fancy. "It's easy to take a great meal, pull out the animal product and replace it with a vegetable."

Aside from catering services and take-outs, the restaurant also sells different kinds of sauces, bottles of honey, and frozen goods like *asado siopao*, sandwiches and dumplings—all made of veggies.

The blossoming of plant-based alternatives in food is summed up by Chua when she says, "I think a balance is good. The way most people eat butter isn't evil. In fact, you need butter for a good butter cookie. It's all a question of what's in the rest of your diet."

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*

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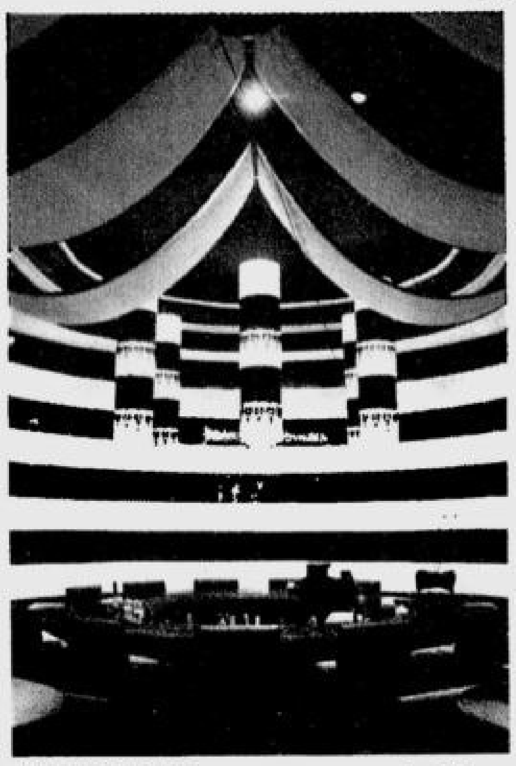
# LIFESTYLE



CYLINDRICAL lamps are wrapped with black lace.

Venezia reopens with a modified name and a slicker look

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THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA

# Back in black and white

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**

ONE of the city's hottest party places has undergone a radical makeover—from its classic, two-toned walls down to its short, one-letter name.

After shutting its doors for almost two months, the Venezia is now back in the loop as it reopened to Metro Manila's chi-chi set three Thursdays ago. It's now simply known as the V, and habitues who flock to it nightly can't help but heap praises on its 21st-century interiors.

The same team responsible for the Venezia's rich, flamboyant look has limited the color scheme to black and white—with a dozen or so twists such as the creative interplay of mirrors, swags of contrasting fabrics and artificial topiaries.

"My husband and I felt that the Venezia needed a drastic makeover five years into the party scene," says owner Cecile Ysmael, the project's director and Louie Ysmael's better half.

Again, sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario of Atelier Almario did the interiors, while architect Arnel Dayanghirang supervised the construction.

In lieu of gold and other traditional Venetian shades, the Almarios had the walls painted in horizontal swathes of black and white. Several vertical mirrors, four on each side of the opposite walls, break the monotony and provide the limited floor area with an illusion of space. A pair of huge mirrors from the Venezia of old has now found its way by the entranceway across the main bar.

But why limit the color scheme to black and white? "We wanted to give the place a sharper, more 'impactful' look," says Cynthia. "Black and white seemed like a perfect choice."

### Still glossy

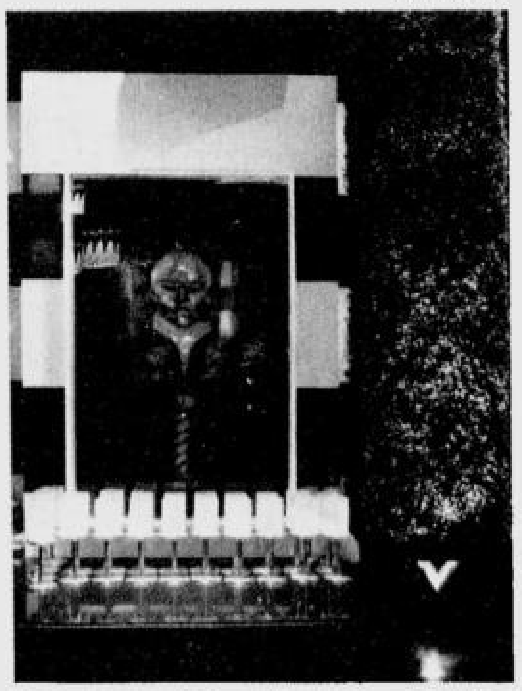
Despite the absence of shimmer, however, the walls surprisingly look glossy. Cecile credits this to several coats of high-gloss paint. No small feat, really, since the team had to work double time.

"Every minute counted," says Arnel. "We had to speed things up since the owners had to pay the rent and employees' wages even while the place was under renovation."

The mahogany floors, by the way, were sanded and painted black. Cynthia's trademark artificial topiaries on tables and in corners add a dash of green to the black-and-white scene. "The crispness of green," she says, "allows the walls' colors to come out."

Tall, circular tables were repainted black and accented with white circles. Gray-upholstered bar stools are brand new. In true Venetian fashion, five swags of black-and-white fabric hover above the dining area giving it a tent-like feel. The Almarios didn't leave them at that.

BACK/ p.E2



ONE of several Venetian masks encased in a white frame

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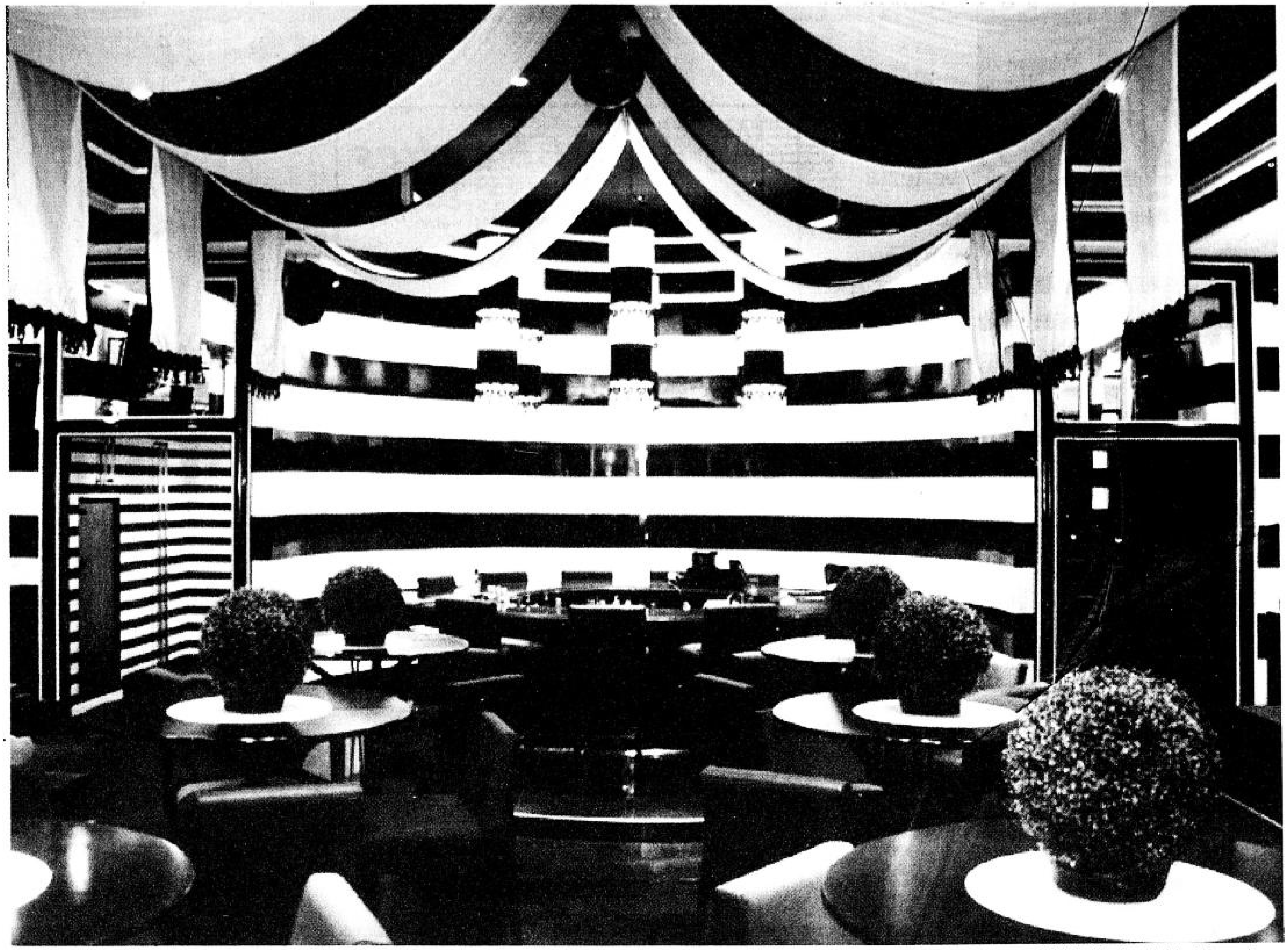
# Back in black and white



**DESPITE** the absence of shimmer, the V's black-and-white walls are surprisingly glossy. The color scheme is repeated in on the tables and swags of fabric lined with black lace above.

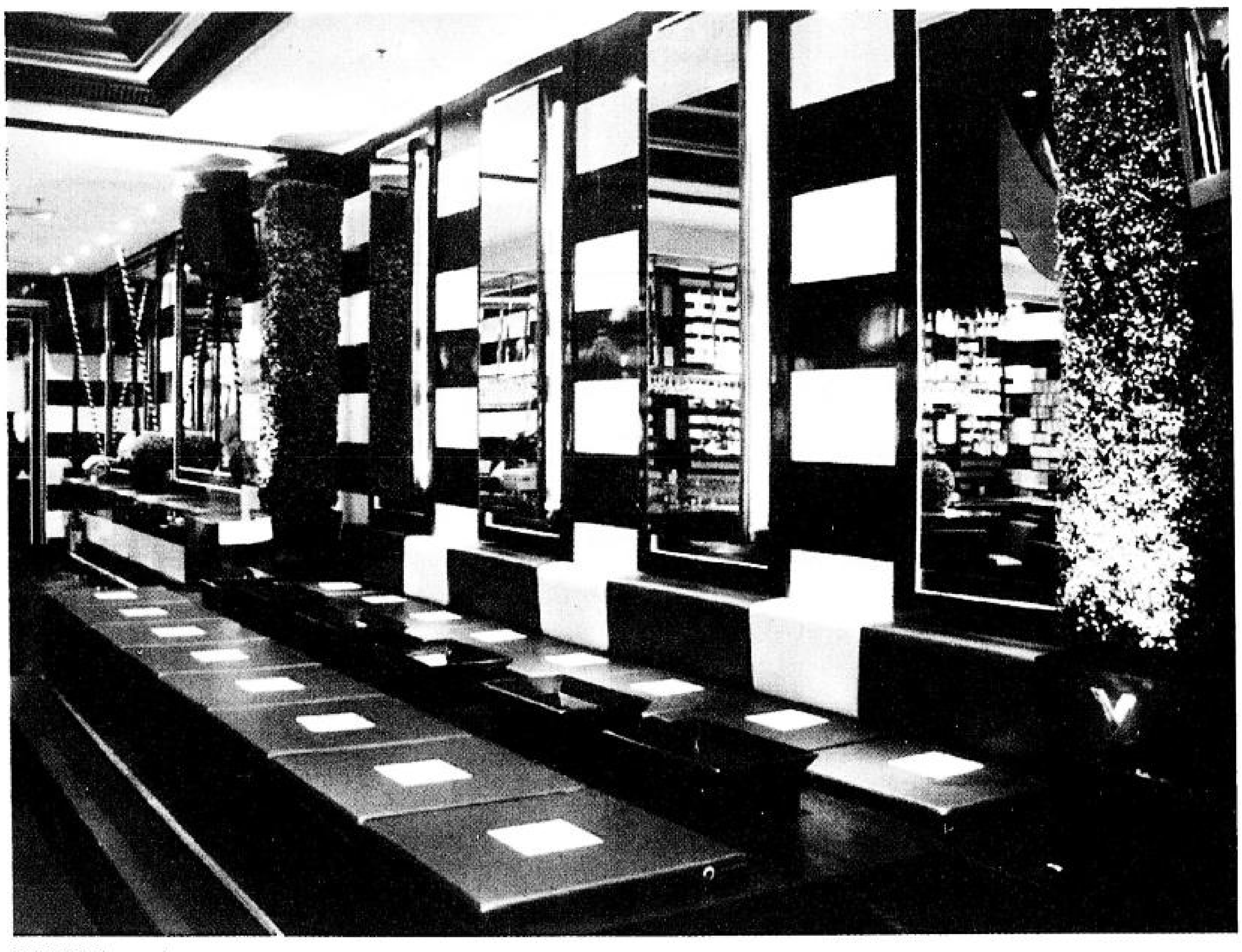
From page E1

"To soften the place," says Ivy, "we added a touch of whimsy by lining the edges with black, Venetian lace." The same intricate element has found its way around a dozen or so cylindrical lampshades above the circular bar.

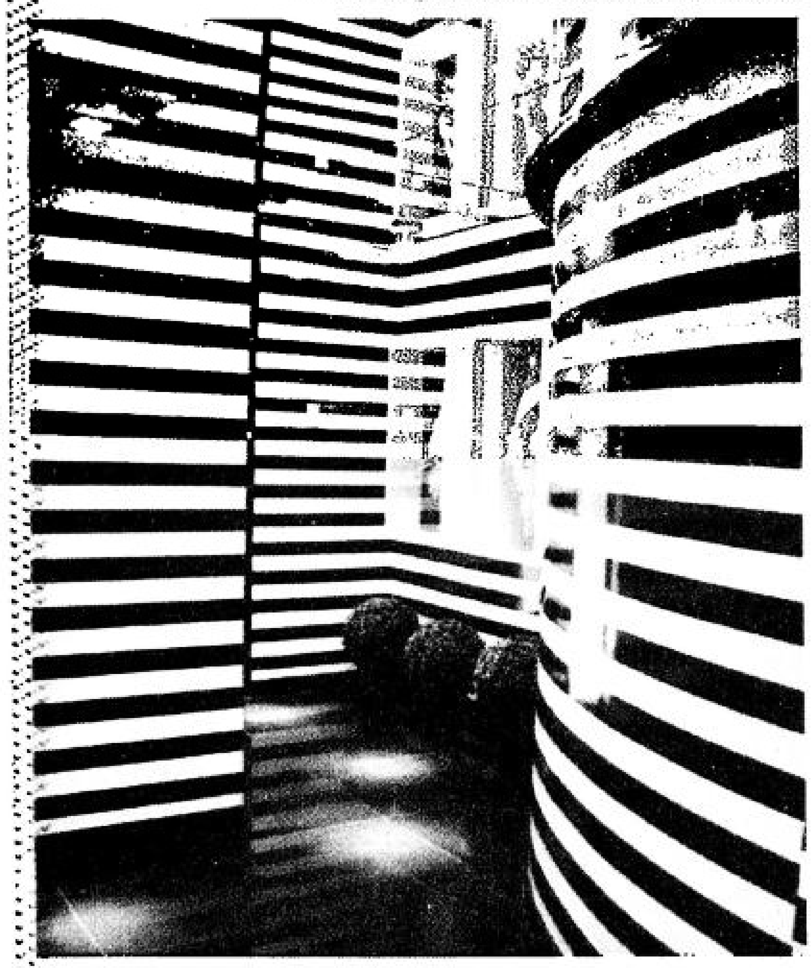
The V, by whatever name, is first and foremost a bar. So the team did away with several banquettes and in their place is a pair of parallel ledges located between the tables and chairs.

Upholstered cushions and backrests are also wrapped in the preferred color scheme. "Guests can chill on top of the ledge and sit, Indian-style," says Cecile. "Or they can sit at the base of the ledge to people-watch or chat the night away."

Close to a thousand warm bodies were said to have packed the V on opening night. Patrons competed for every available space, with several inebriated souls dancing on top of both ledges. The swinging crowd filled the narrow spaces between the dining area and the ledges.



**VERTICAL** panels of mirror add an illusion of space to one of two ledges with cushioned seats and backrests.



**PARALLEL** black-and-white lines lead to the restrooms.

To complete the setup, Cecile had several elevated black trays fashioned from wood and placed at the center of each ledge. She bought the original piece from Thailand, as well as two dozen candleholders made of frosted glass with metal stands.

"Cecile had to pack the candleholders in her carry-on bag to prevent them from breaking," says Ivy. "That's how hands-on she is."

## Improved bar

Even the main bar wasn't spared. Gone, for instance, are the four Gothic arches and in their place is a series of functional wine racks in black. The same cylindrical lamps with Venetian lace that dangle above the smaller circular bar can also be found in the main bar.

And what's a makeover without shiny, new restrooms? In keeping with its 21st-century theme, the ladies' room is almost totally wrapped in mirrors, its cubicles partitioned by thick sheets of frosted glass. A urinal has been added to the men's room.

Antique-looking marble floors and walls have given way to glossy ceramic tiles. Both his and hers have been equipped with new toilet fixtures—from the sink, to the loo, down to the faucet.

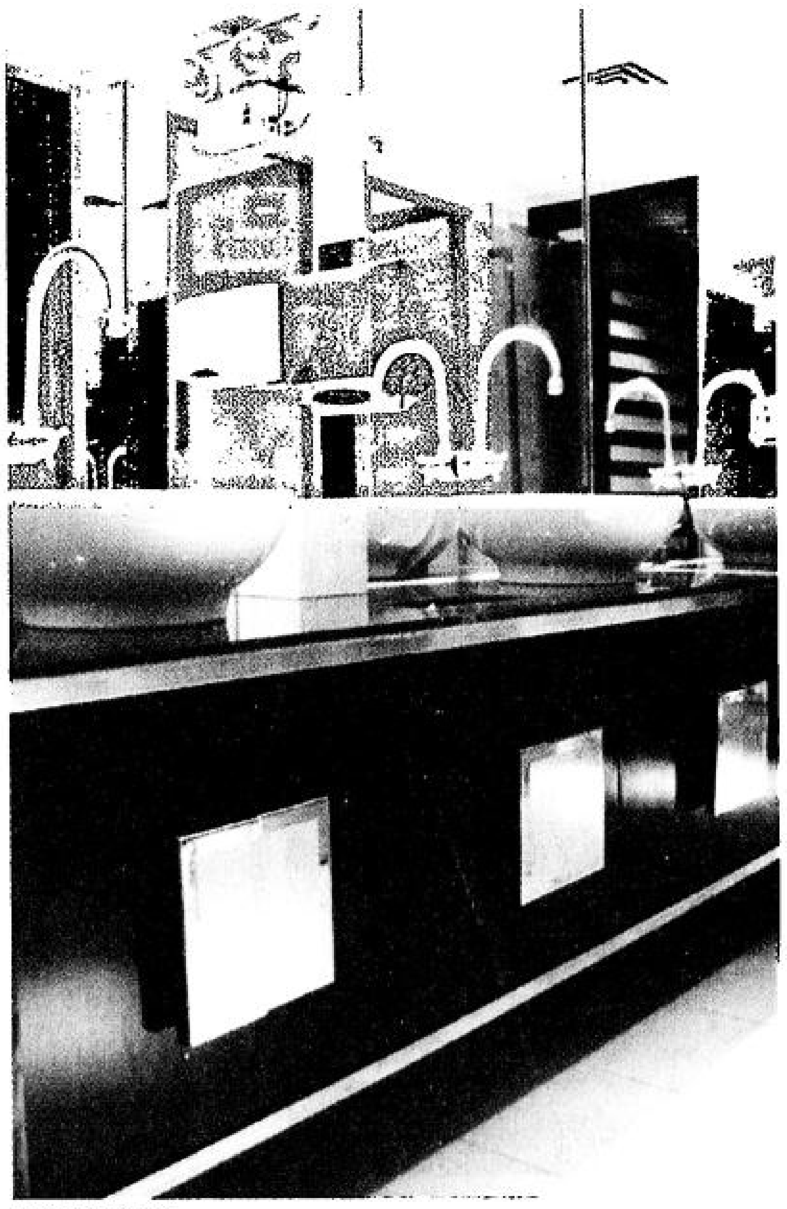
"We looked into every detail and spared no expense to make our vision a reality," says Cecile.

Even remnants of the old Venezia have been given a millennial spin. Traditional gold masks, for instance, are now encased in white frames. Several poles across the main bar are now painted in—what else?—black and white.

Except for the old name and its token masks, the V is as removed from Venice as it is from Manila. You probably have to go to New York or London to find anything like it.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

**THE BAR** area sans Gothic arches of the old Venezia



**THE LADIES'** room

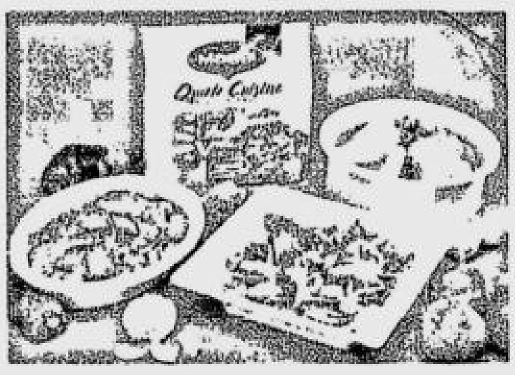
## *Speedy burgers*

WITH A CATCHY new number, Jollibee has just upgraded delivery service in Metro Manila.

"Jollibee has been offering its delivery services since the early '90s. With the customer in mind, we desired to make the delivery service much more convenient for them, hence the new Jollibee 8-7000 Delivery Service," says Joel Villamayor, Jollibee's local store marketing manager. Villamayor proudly notes that the Pinoy burger giant is the first fast-food chain in the country to use a five-digit delivery hotline.

With more than 250 riders and over 80 delivery stores in the Metro Manila area, Jollibee offers total satisfaction as customers are assured of getting their favorite Chickenjoy, juicy hamburgers, and yummy spaghetti, hot and fresh, delivered right at their doorsteps. The 8-7000 Delivery Service is within the Metro Manila area and runs from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Sunday.

Launched recently, Villamayor says that the new 8-7000 Delivery Service is very popular among office workers, especially during lunch and snack time. He added that select Jollibee stores also deliver breakfast meals from 7-10 a.m.



## Quick solutions

MAGGI Quick Cuisine Recipe Mixes for Caterers are ready-mix products available in five variants: Ginisa, Tinola, Afritada, Menudo, and Kaldereta, all made from the highest quality ingredients that provide the caterer consistency in their everyday food production. Each sachet is pre-measured, which is good for one kilo of meat and vegetables for better cost-control and convenience. Maggi Quick Cuisine produces the highest yield per sachet at the most affordable cost among the ready-mix products in the market today.

Call 898-6745 or your local Nestlé Food Services distributor.

## Daza delights in a box

READY-TO-EAT Daza Delights products like Boneless Bangus fillet in three sauces are all healthy dishes, which use olive oil and fresh garlic, both good for the heart. These products are natural, and have no preservatives. They are Boneless Bangus fillet: à la Vizcaina (a Nora Daza and Bong Daza version); à la Vizcaina (spicy); Salsa Verde (a Bong Daza and Gloria Diaz recipe). All you have to do is microwave or steam and serve in a box or in a plate for breakfast, lunch or dinner. They can be eaten with bread, rice, pasta or potatoes. They are available at all Rustan's, Shopwise, Waltermart and South Supermarket outlets, also at Unimart, Makati Supermarket Alabang and other supermarkets and outlets from P100-P120 a box.

## Classes on food business

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center offers classes that can lead to a rewarding career in the food business. Choose from catering, cooking and baking classes to help you start a fruitful business.

Be guided by experts on the ins and outs of catering on Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be lessons on portion control, costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing and actual preparation of popular Filipino dishes. Included in the package is the hands-on instruction on how to prepare, cook and present sumptuous dishes like *morcon*, *galantina*, pork *asado*, soy chicken, roast pork, baked macaroni, all-meat paella and special *gulaman* desserts.

The Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) course will be on Aug. 21-23, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This course is ideal for career cooks. There will be instructions on menu planning, international standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, and more lessons that will be applicable to 1,001 redoes. Lecture on plate and platter presentation will all also be included. Free lunch will be served. On the same day but at 1:30-5 p.m., learn techniques in preparing basic pie crusts, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more on Basic Baking.

Learn the fundamentals of cake designing then enroll in the Cake Decorating class on Aug. 24 and 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The course Cooking I (Basic Cooking) will be held on Aug. 27-30, 1:30-5 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at the Eighth Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific. net.ph.

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EVER wondered what your P20 bill could buy? Well, stop thinking now because Wendy's has introduced "Wendy's Twenty's!" Super value menu items starting at P20 each include Hamburger, Frosty, Side Salad and French Fries. With just P9 more, enjoy any of these: Spaghetti, Wing Ding Chicken Meal, Chili Rice and Cheeseburger.

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AMERICAN
AMERICAN Classic

**MOVIE heartthrob Diether Ocampo delights in Pizza Hut's new Roast Beef American Classic, a whopping 14-inch pizza loaded with two layers of imported mozzarella cheese, slices of real roast beef, bacon and choice veggies. The rest of the country can only moo with him in agreement. The new Roast Beef Pizza is available in the new American Classic, Pan Pizza, Stuffed Crust and Cheesy Crust at all Pizza Hut restaurants nationwide.**

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# Up on the roof

**Text by Anne A. Jambora**
**Photos by Johnny Villena**

A RESPITE from the honking horns, engine noise and perennial traffic chaos on the corner of Makati and Kalayaan Avenues is Roofdeck Bar and Grill, an open-air bar-resto 23 stories above ground zero. Located at the City Garden Hotel Makati's rooftop, the bar-resto has as backdrop the Makati skyline, and with soft music and the pool's blue reflection quietly flickering in the cool night, dining becomes laid-back and, okay, romantic for dewy-eyed lovers.

"People come here to unwind and enjoy the view while dining out," says Suzette R. Cuerpo, City Garden Hotel Makati's director for sales and marketing. And luxuriating in such ambience surprisingly comes at a reasonable price. Cuerpo says a meal, plus drinks, can be had for P200-P400 per person.

Reservation is a must since the place can only seat 50 diners at a time, and waiting for a table can be difficult, especially during weekends. Open from 5 p.m.-12 mn every day, Roofdeck Bar and Grill (tel. 899-1111) specializes in grilled dishes and Mongolian cuisine, and offers as well cocktail drinks, house wines and Italian coffee.

> All the steak you can eat plus a view of the Makati skyline

### Steaks galore

And now great news to carnivores: Until September, Roofdeck offers "Steak and Ribs All You Can" for P385+.

"All the steak you can eat, really. If you can finish three servings in one sitting, fine. Just make sure to clean your plate, otherwise you'll have to pay for them at regular prices," Cuerpo says.

Slabs of steak are served with vegetable salad, corn on the cob and pasta (or rice, if requested), plus the soup of the day, and carrot and banana cakes for dessert. That's right—not one but two slices of cakes to cap the dining experience.

The promo goes beyond steaks, too. Aside from T-bone, sirloin and tenderloin steaks, it also includes the spicy and tender-to-the-bone beef and pork spareribs and sirloin *salpicao*. Diners can choose from peppercorn, mushroom, bearnaise, bordalaise and mustard gravies.

This promo is definitely not for the health-conscious and weight-watchers. So far, Cuerpo says they've had only one guest who went for all three steaks and actually finished every bite of each, plus desserts.

### Wines and coffees

As wine complements red meat, Roofdeck marked down their red and white house-wine prices to P45+ per glass. "That is probably the cheapest offering in the metropolis," Cuerpo says. The promo extends even to regular diners who delight in sipping wine while chilling out or having dinner.

In fact, Cuerpo says, since City Garden Hotel is a spitting distance to many nightclubs that dot the Makati area, night owls often go up to the Roofdeck to unwind before hitting the party zones, which usually livens up at 9 p.m. and beyond. Danesi Italian coffee—espresso, cappuccino, latte, mocha or brewed—is also offered for P45+ per cup, guaranteed to keep the eyes wide open till the wee hours.

Also on the Roofdeck menu is a variety of grilled seafood dishes and Filipino cuisine, such as Inihaw na Liempo, Grilled Salmon, Adobong Pusit, Sisig, Mix Seafood al Ajillo, Spicy Bowl of Mussel with Tapanid Sauce. Appetizers such as nachos are also available for those who prefer to sample the resto's wide cocktail selection.

Roofdeck accepts reservations for parties and corporate gatherings. The bar-resto is adequately fenced by high glass walls to keep the strong winds at such altitude at bay, and to make the place child-friendly. Yes, it does get its share of children's party, and for that, City Garden Hotel offers varied packages—clowns and cakes included, if the client insists.

What happens if, God forbid, it rains? "We have a partly covered area that our guests, especially those near the pool, can transfer to. But during a heavy downpour, we request our guests to move to Le Jardin Restaurant on the third floor," Cuerpo says.

Since the charm of the Roofdeck relies heavily on the ambience, you may want to check the weather forecast beforehand.

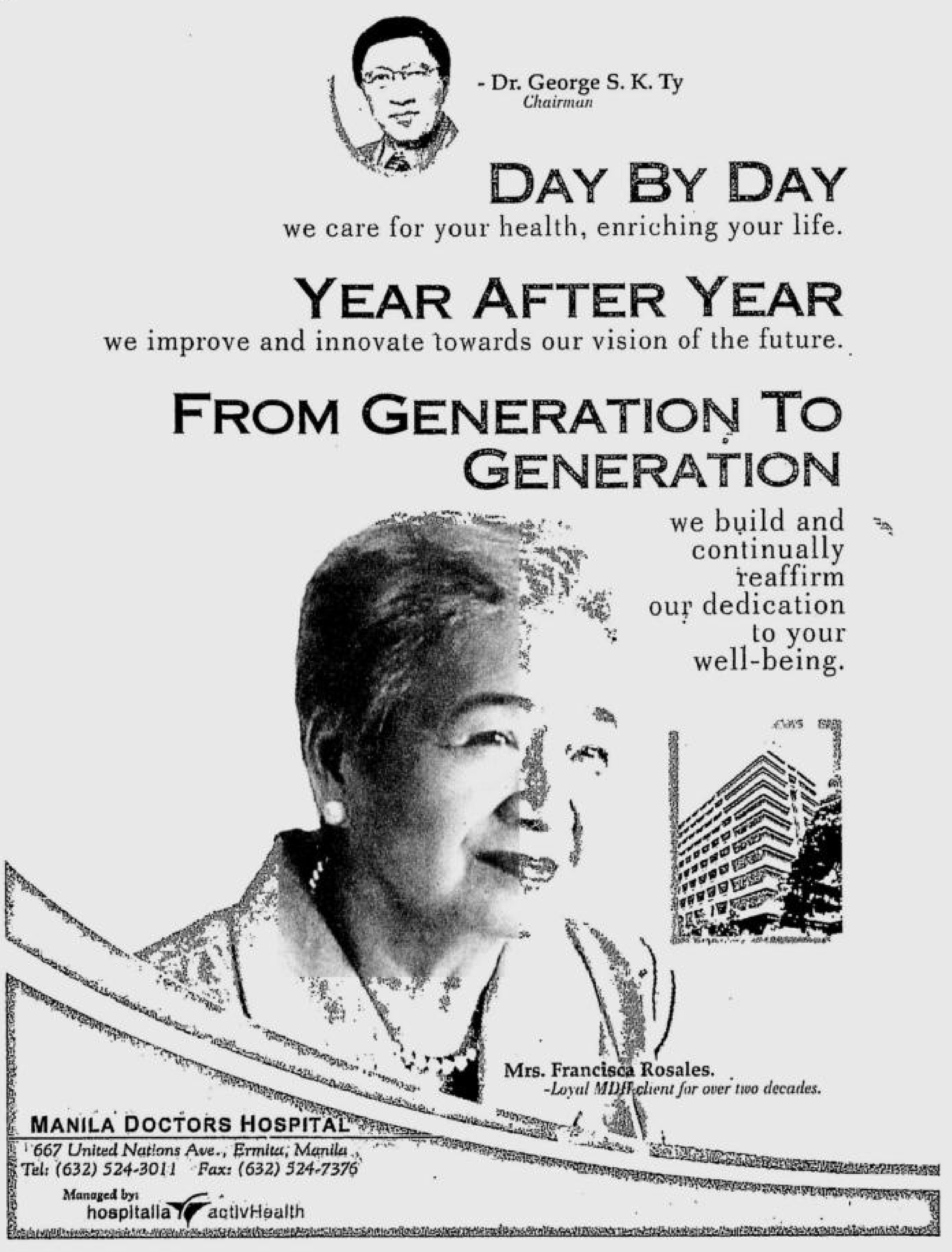
*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*

T-BONE steak

TENDERLOIN steak

SPICY bowl of mussel with tapanid sauce

CARROT and banana cake



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# New combos of pizza, pasta and chicken dishes

## DINING OUT

SBARRO offers four new food combos until Oct. 31. Dubbed "Pizza, Pasta and Chicken Comborrisico," these combos are selections of your favorite pizza, pasta and chicken dishes. Pick your choice: Combo 1—Pizza and Spaghetti Delight and soda of your choice, P95; Combo 2—Chicken with Spaghetti and Garlic Bread with soda for P165; Combo 3—Rice with Chicken, Sausage and Vegetables; Combo 4—Pizza and Mushroom Soup with Garlic Bread. Sbarro branches are located at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall A, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 2 and Festival Mall in Alabang.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers diners a bowl of Burgoo's soup free for every order of steaks and ribs. Available until Aug. 30, save as much as P65 or up to 30-percent discount. Pick your choice: Mushroom Soup, Broccoli Soup, Cheese Soup, French Onion Soup, Clam Chowder, Steak Soup and Burgoo Stew. Visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle Diliman, QC; 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and on the 2/L The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-5241.

PANCAKE HOUSE whips up "Perfect Combo-nation" featuring starters and main courses. Each meal is served with Lipton iced tea. Combinations include Spanish omelette, hash brown triangles and country sausages; carbonara and light clubhouse sandwich; hot roast chicken, potato salad and taco; garlic chicken with rice and Caesar salad; and light bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich, macaroni salad and soup of the day.

SUKHOTHAI serves Top Thai, which includes Chicken Tenderloin in Curry, Chicken with Black Chinese Mushrooms and Bamboo Shoots, Fried Deboned Lapu-Lapu in Sweet and Sour Sauce, Pork with String Beans in Chili Sauce, and Stuffed Tofu with Minced Pork and Shrimp in Thick Sauce. All these rice toppings are available for lunch and dinner. Sukhothai has branches in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City and SM Megamall. Call 892-6855/6857 or 634-1280/1738.

HUA LAN Chinese Restaurant has an ongoing buffet on Saturdays and Sundays. The menu offers assorted dimsum, two kinds of soup, two kinds of rice, à la carte dishes like Beef Hofan, Sweet and Sour Pork, Fried Noodles with mixed meat, Hua Lan Fried Chicken. Hua Lan Chinese Restaurant is on the G/F, Units 104-105, ITC Building, Jupiter corner Reposo, Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 896-7828 or 895-1681.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S Café Restaurant offers "Fete of Noodle Soup" this month, 3-5 p.m. Grab a bowl of Japanese *ramen*, *batchoy*, Empress soup, *molo* soup, or beef and chicken *mami* and get a complimentary roll of bread or *pan de sal*. The Cafe also offers late-night menu of pica-pica, 11 p.m.-4 a.m. and enjoy all local beers for only P80 per bottle. Call 867-3333 local 3346 to 3347.

**PANCAKE House's "Perfect Combo-nation"**

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Inaho Tei invites seafood aficionados to "Ayu Like Never Before" sweetfish promotion at Edsa Shangri-La until Aug. 25. *Ayu* or sweetfish, a member of the salmon family, is prized for its taste and the fishing method used in catching it. Japanese chef Toshio Sato prepares Ayu Sushi, Dengakuyaki (grilled with miso sauce), Kimi Age (with egg yolk tempura), Suishoni (boiled and rolled with seaweed), Sakaboshi (grilled and marinated with *sake*), Domyoji Age (deep-fried with glutinous rice), Tamamushi (steamed with beancurd), and many more, for lunch and dinner. Inaho Tei is on the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Call 633-8888 local 2738 and 2739.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffee Shop offers seafood specialties such as Stuffed Lobster, Mussels Stew, Marinated Silver Fish in Soya, Steak Tanguige with green sauce, Butterfly Pampano with Anchovy, Shrimp Creole, Crab Balls with Oyster Sauce and Ginger Clams. Cap off this meal with desserts like Carrot Cake, Tiramisu and Crepe Samurai. Enjoy these specialties for lunch and dinner buffet until Aug. 17. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL'S Prince Albert Rotisserie offers French/Continental set menus for lunch. Starters include Broccoli Soup, Tuna Tartare with Aspic Tomato or Duck Breast Carpaccio. Fish entrées are Lacquered Sea Bass with Red Cabbage Confit, Pan-fried Flounder Fillet with Quenelle of Pumpkin Risotto and Roasted Gindara with Thyme Bell Pepper Confit. Meat dishes like Duck Leg Confit with Sautéed Potatoes and Herb Salad, Braised Veal Shank with Asparagus and Tomatoes and Grilled Rib Eye with Gratin Dauplinois Shallot Sauce are also available. Call 815-9711 local 261-263.

THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL, with the Department of Foreign Affairs, holds the Asean Food Festival until Aug. 13. The Cafe in the Park prepares a wide array of Asean dishes for its lunch and dinner buffets. Unkai Japanese Restaurant, on the other hand, has concocted a special menu for the celebration of Natsu Matsuri (Summer Festival) this month. The Deli Shop highlights doughnuts with a choice of strawberry, Berliner and chocolate flavors. Call 528-8888.

THE RICHMONDE HOTEL holds a Regional Food Festival on Aug. 12-25 at the Richmonde Grill. Starters include crispy fried *ukoy*, seaweeds, seafood *kinilaw* and assorted dried seafood complemented with a variety of spices and dips. Entrées include chicken roll with *chorizo*, shrimp *paella* and *batchoy*. Bottomless *sago't gulaman*, *buko* and pandan juices are also available. Call 638-7777 local 3409.

HYATT REGENCY MANILA'S Café Al Fresco will showcase the diversity of Malaysian culture until Aug. 18. Try the famous hot and spicy *sambal* dip (thick sauce made of chilies, shallots, shrimp paste, and sour fruits) to special rice and noodle recipes, as well as its signature dish; satay (skewered chicken or beef marinated in spices then grilled over charcoal fire); curries; and coconut-based mutton, chicken, beef and seafood specialties.

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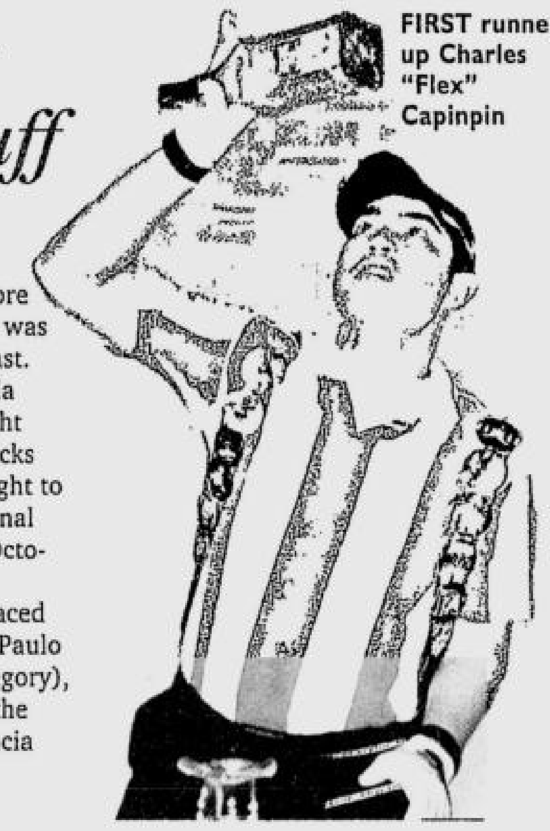
**HERNANDO "Ultimate Yanan" Estrada displays the moves that won him this year's contest.**

# *Bartenders strut their stuff in contest*

THE ANNUAL T.G.I. Friday's Inter-store Philippine Bartending Championship was held recently at Friday's Sta. Lucia East.

Malate bartender Hernando Estrada emerged as overall winner. He brought home P15,000, a trip to Cebu, gift packs and gift certificates. He earned the right to represent the Philippines in the regional bartending tournament in Guam in October.

Quezon City's Charles Capinpin placed second. Runner-ups were Glorietta's Paulo Alvero (who won in the pour-off category), Alabang's Angelina Uy (who won in the compulsory competition) and Sta. Lucia East's Bekim Bedro.



**FIRST runner-up Charles "Flex" Capinpin**

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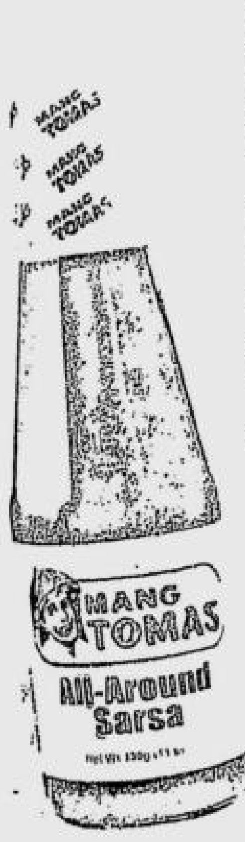

Spring Rolls na 'di matatalbugan!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo ang inyong Spring Rolls. Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Mang Tomas Spring Rolls

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup chicken breast, boiled and chopped
2 tbsp. Oyster sauce
3 tbsp. MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
1 tbsp. Shitaki mushroom, sliced
2 tbsp. Bamboo shoots, cut into strips
1 tbsp. Sesame oil
Lumpia wrapper
Garlic
Onions

PROCEDURE:
1. Saute garlic and onion in sesame oil. Add chicken, shitaki mushroom and bamboo shoots.
2. Season with oyster sauce and Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
3. Simmer to cook.
4. In a lumpia wrapper, scoop a mixture, roll and then seal.
5. Deep fry the spring roll. Strain in paper towels and then serve.

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# Cooking with herbal skill

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Johnny Villena**

WE all know that spices and herbs add flavor and aroma to a variety of dishes. But, did you know that a wild plant out there can also do the trick?

*Alagaw*, a wild leafy plant, gives off a strong aromatic flavor with a bitter-sour taste. The tender leaves of the *alagaw* are medicinal and are used in the popular Filipino herbal tea called *pito-pito*. But used in cooking with other ingredients, such as pork and vegetables, *alagaw* allows a unique culinary experience. Jemai de Jesus has been using *alagaw* leaves in cooking an old family recipe called *inubyob*.

"This recipe originated from our *lola*, Alejandra Espiritu, and was passed on to her children and grandchildren," says the 24-year-old hotel and restaurant management student at St. Scholastica, Manila. "*Inubyob* is a regular staple in our family and is popular during parties."

*Inubyob* is similar to *embotido* and meatloaf in taste and look but different in that the young *alagaw* leaves (*talbos*) are finely chopped and blended with onions, carrots and tomatoes and flavored with soy sauce and fish sauce.

Coming from Pampanga where the cooking is so alive yet down-to-earth, Jemai loves the simple but flavorful cuisine of her home province. But *inubyob* is not your typical Pampango food. "My *lola* simply experimented on a lot of herbs and accidentally discovered that *alagaw* made her cooking flavorful and delicious," says Jemai.

Other than inubyob, *alagaw* leaves are also used in cooking *adobong hito* and *pesang dalag*. They are also ideal for grilling fish. The fish is carefully wrapped in *alagaw* leaves and then broiled.

*Alagaw* is grown in most provinces. In Manila, they can be bought in Quiapo and other selected marketplaces like the Quinta Market.

In this recipe, Jemai prepares *inubyob* the way her *lola* prepared it for the family. The ground pork is combined with vegetables, wrapped in *alagaw* leaves, then banana leaves and, finally, broiled. If banana leaves are not available, you can opt to use aluminum foil. You can either grill it over charcoal or place it in a frying pan with a little oil and cook over low fire.

This recipe serves three to four persons and will only cost you P82 (½ kg ground pork costs P55, onion P4, carrot P8, tomatoes P10, leeks P5).

**Ingredients:**
½ kg ground pork (preferably *kasim* part)
2 medium onions, finely chopped
1 medium carrot, finely cubed
3 medium tomatoes, finely chopped minus the seeds
6 young fragrant *alagaw* leaves, finely chopped
1 tsp salt
1 tsp fish sauce
2 tsp soy sauce
1 egg
1 stalk leeks, cut into rings

***For wrapping:***
*Alagaw* leaves (relatively young leaves)
Banana leaves (heated over the stove to make it pliable)

***For the sauce:***
Fish sauce or soy sauce with *calamansi* juice

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

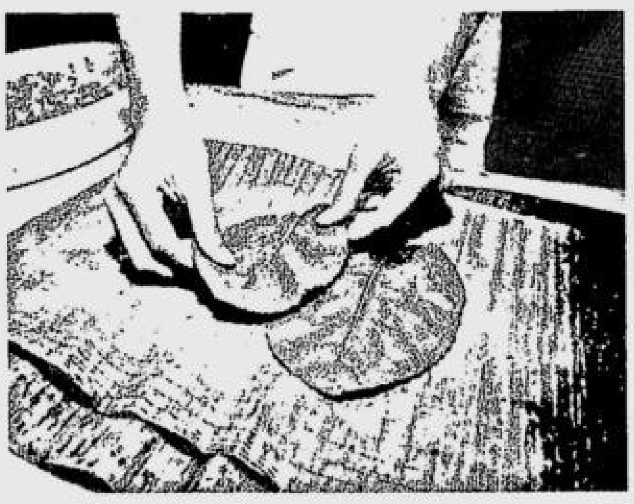
## STEP BY STEP

1 **COMBINE** ground pork with onion, carrots, tomatoes, chopped *alagaw*, salt, fish sauce, soy sauce and leeks.

2 **ADD** egg.

3 **MIX** well.

4 **UNFOLD** the banana leaves. (Use at least 2 banana leaves to keep your patty from burning).



5 **TOP** the banana leaves with the *alagaw* leaves.

6 **PLACE** ½ of the pork mixture, patting it into a square.

7 **COVER** the square patty with *alagaw* leaves to add more aroma/flavor.

8 **WRAP** with banana leaves.

9 **GRILL** over an electric grill or charcoal grill.

10 **COOK** for about 40 minutes, 20 minutes on each side. Unwrap banana leaves, leaving behind the *alagaw* leaves. Before serving, garnish *inubyob* with chopped vegetables.

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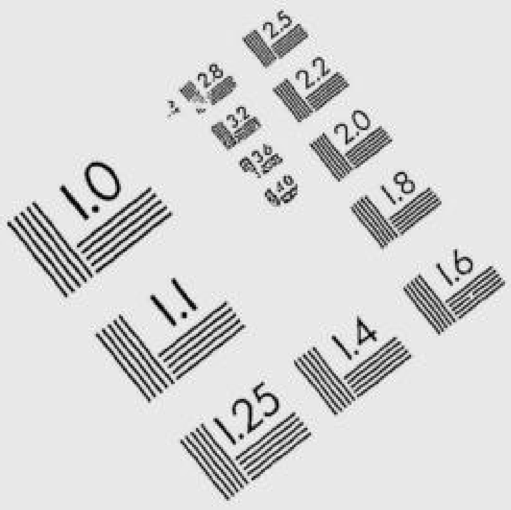
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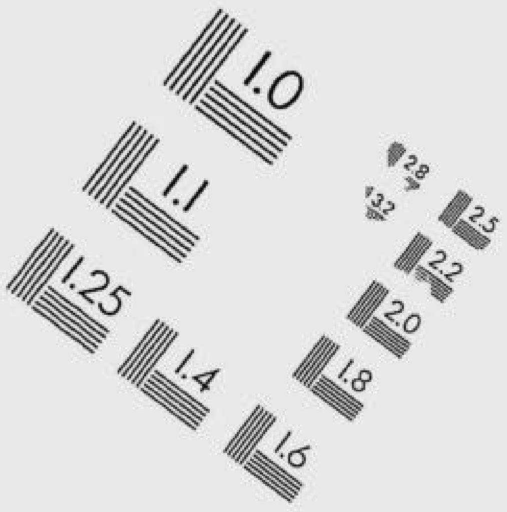
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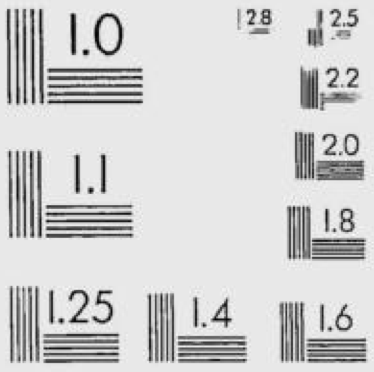
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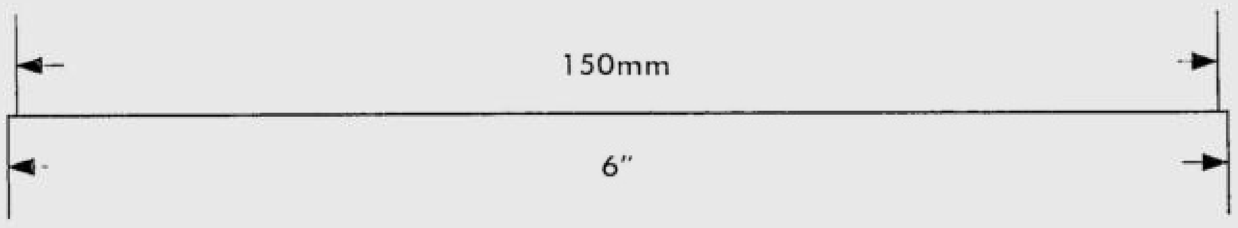

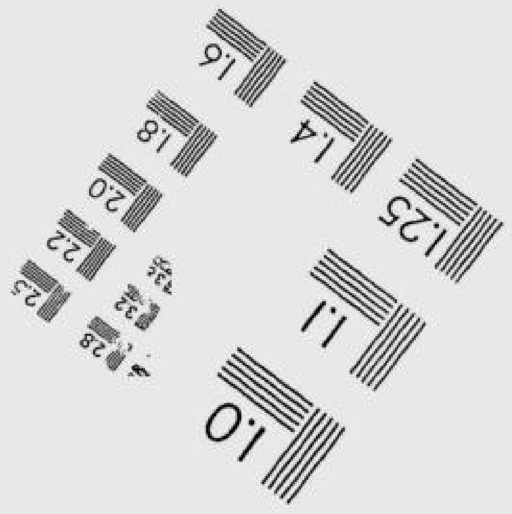
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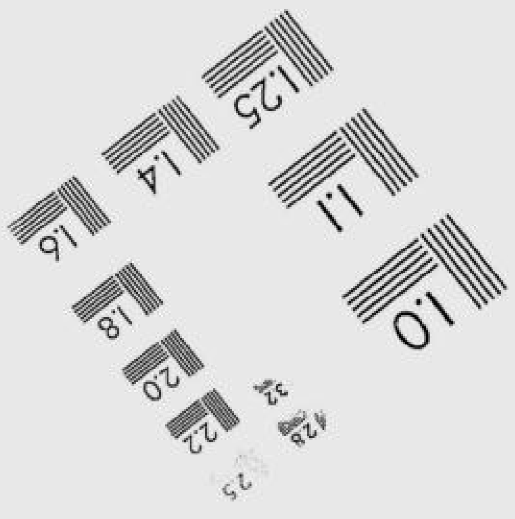
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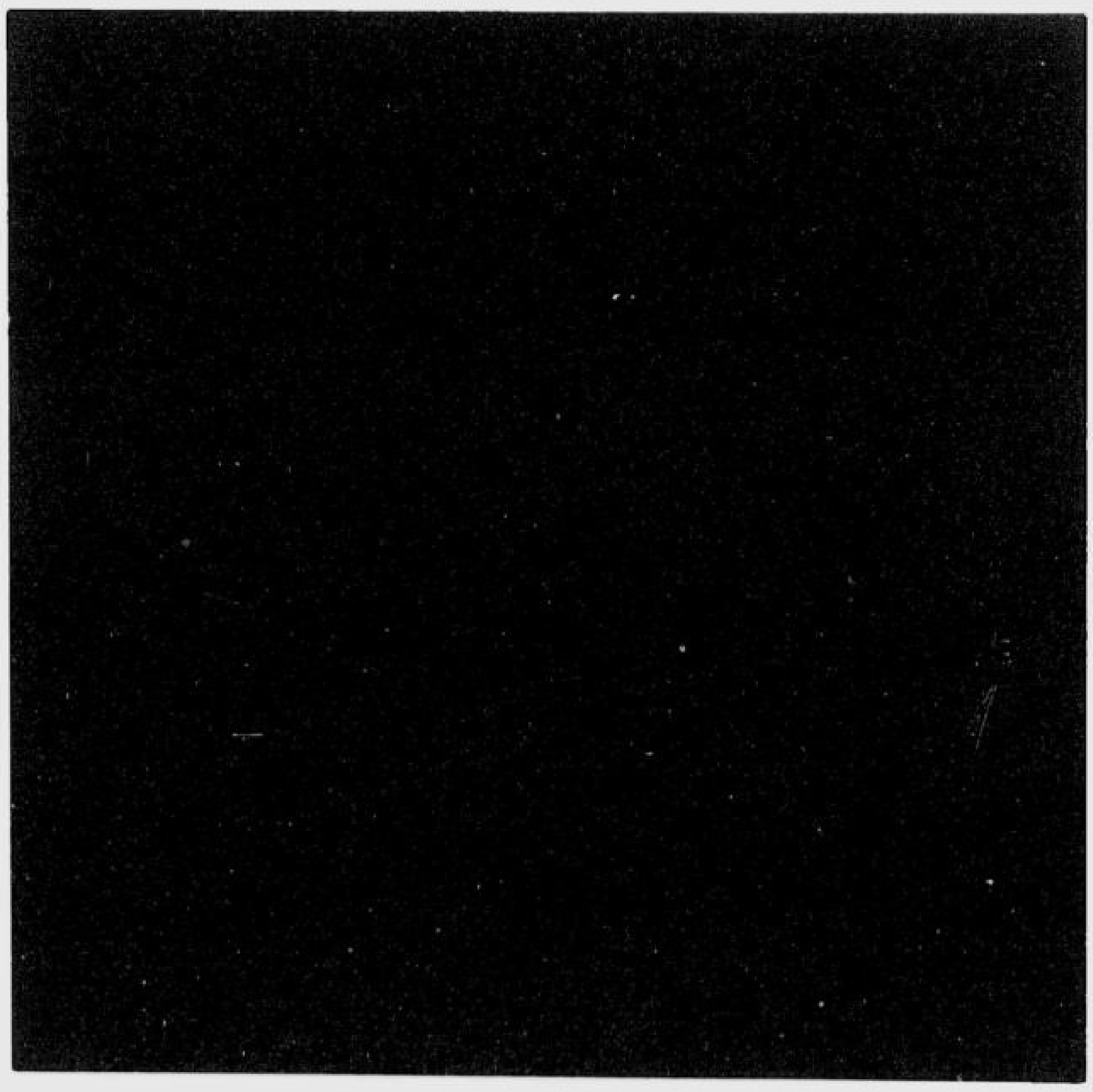

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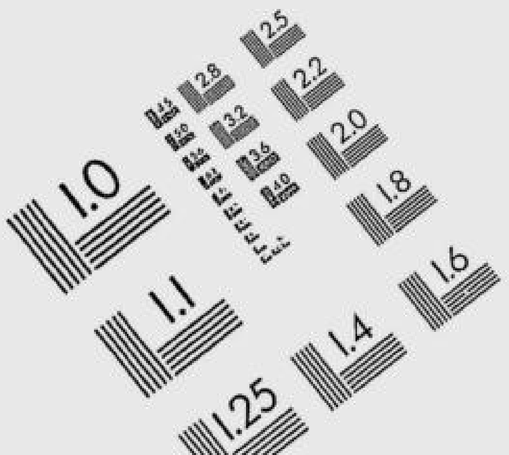
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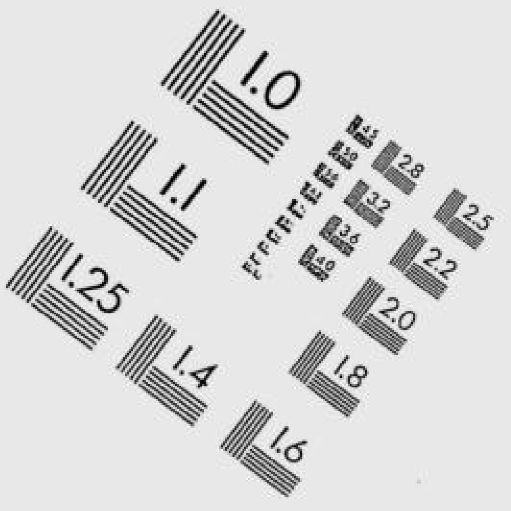
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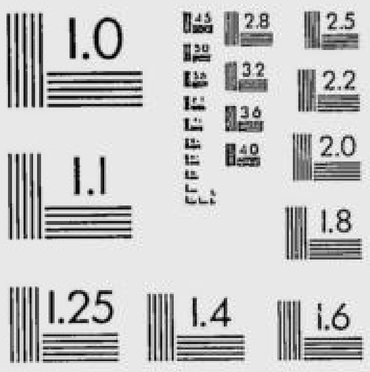
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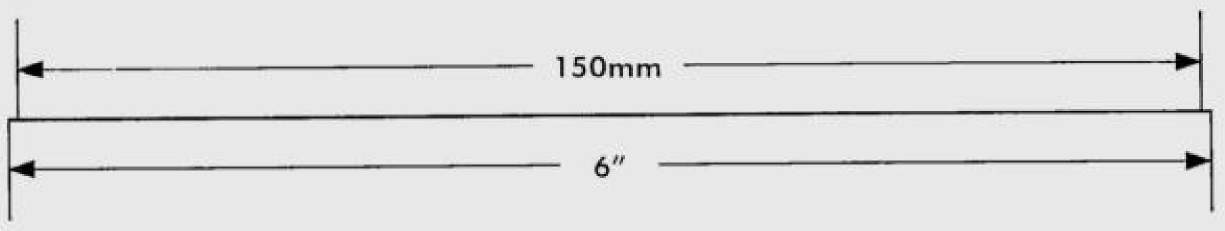

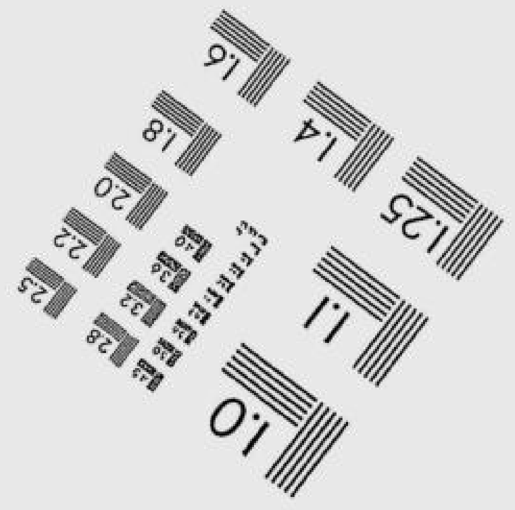
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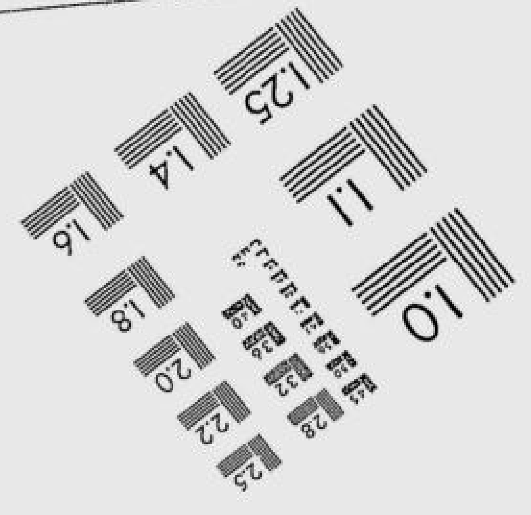
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